

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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MCC OF THE GUAD CITIES
P.O. BOX 4095
DAVENPORT, IOWA 52808

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INCC QUAD CITIES CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Apr 17th - Sunday Worship Service 11:50 AM
 Apr 18th - Monday Choir Practice - 7 PM
 Apr 20th - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 Apr 22nd - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8 PM
 Apr 23rd - April Board of Directors Meeting - 6 PM
 Potluck Dinner/Game Night - 7:30 PM
 Apr 24th - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 Apr 25th - Monday Choir Practice - 7 PM
 Apr 27th - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 Apr 29th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8 PM
 Apr 30th - Saturday Game Night - 7:30 PM
 May 1st -- Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 May 2nd -- Monday Choir Practice - 7 PM
 May 4th -- Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 May 6th -- Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8 PM
 May 7th -- May Cleanup Brigade - 1 PM
 Saturday Game Night - 7:30 PM
 May 8th -- Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 May 9th -- Monday Choir Practice - 7 PM
 May 11th - May Staff Meeting - 6 PM
 Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 May 13th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8 PM
 May 14th - Saturday Game Night - 7:30 PM
 May 15th - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 May 16th - Monday Choir Practice - 7 PM
 May 18th - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 May 20th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8 PM
 May 21st - May Board of Directors Meeting - 6 PM
 Potluck Dinner/Game Night - 7:30 PM
 May 22nd - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 May 23rd - Monday Choir Practice - 7 PM
 May 25th - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 May 27th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8 PM
 May 28th - Saturday Game Night - 7:30 PM
 May 29th - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 May 30th - Monday Choir Practice - 7 PM
 Jun 1st - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 Jun 3rd - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8 PM
 Jun 4th - June Cleanup Brigade - 1 PM
 Saturday Game Night - 7:30 PM
 Jun 5th - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 Jun 6th - Monday Choir Practice - 7 PM
 Jun 8th - June Staff Meeting - 6 PM
 Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 Jun 10th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8 PM

THE QUAD CITIES TRINITY



The Newsletter of

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
 OF THE QUAD CITIES
 1618 West Third Street
 Davenport, Iowa

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4095, Davenport, Iowa 52808

ISSUE NUMBER 11

MID-APRIL/MAY 1983

THE QUAD-CITIES TRINITY is the Newsletter of Metropolitan Community Church of the Quad Cities, a Study Group affiliated with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE QUAD CITIES
1618 WEST THIRD STREET
DAVENPORT, IOWA

Telephone: 319-322-5055

Parsonage: 319-322-5513

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 4095, Davenport, Iowa 52808

Worship Coordinator: The Rev. Robert Carl Darst

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

11:50 AM

MONDAY CHOIR PRACTICE

7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

7:30 PM

Monthly social activities and rap sessions: call for time and location.

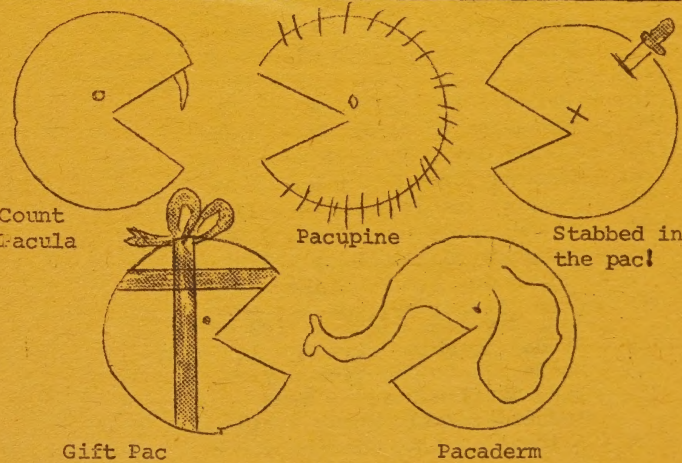
Opinions expressed in the QUAD-CITIES TRINITY are not necessarily those of MCC-Quad Cities, its Pastor, Advisory Board of Directors, Staff or members. Publication of the name of any person, organization or business in articles or advertising is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of said person, organization or business.

Contributions and articles for THE QUAD CITIES TRINITY as well as advertising are always welcome! The deadline for Issue Number 12 is May 22nd, and the publication date for that issue will be May 31st. We reserve the right to edit for purposes of inclusivity.

ADVERTISING RATES:

Two-page center spread.....\$ 15.00
Full back page.....\$ 10.00
Full inside page.....\$ 8.00
Half inside page.....\$ 5.00
Quarter inside page.....\$ 3.00

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TORONTO, ONTARIO WORD SEARCH

All of the words below contain letters found in the city and province of TORONTO, CANADA, upcoming site of our UFMCC General Conference, July 11-July 17, 1983, and can be found in the opposite puzzle, either vertically, horizontally, or diagonally.

AARON	ONAN	TITAN
ANNA	ONION	TITO
ANITA	ONTARIO	TONTO
ANNOTATION	ORAN	TOOT
ANON	ORATION	TORII
ANTONIO	ORATORIO	TORN
AORTA	ORION	TORONTO
ARARAT	OTTO	TORTION
ARNO		TRAIN
ATTAIN	RATTAN	TRAITOR
ATTRITION	RIANT	TRINITARIAN
	RIATA	TRIO
INITIATION	RIOT	TRITON
INTONATION	ROAN	
INTRANT	ROAR	
INTROIT	ROOT	
IONIAN	ROTARIAN	
IOTA	ROTATION	
IRANIAN	ROTATOR	
IRRITANT	ROTOR	
IRRITATION	TAINT	
IRON	TANNIN	
	TARNATION	
NANA	TAROT	
NARRATION	TARTAN	
NATANT	TARTAR	
NINA	TATTOO	
NITRO	TIARA	
NOON	TINT	
NORTON	TITANIA	
NOTION		

SEE
YOU
THERE
IN
JULY

LOVE IS.....

"LOVE SUFFERETH LONG, AND IS KIND; LOVE ENVIETH NOT; LOVE VAUNTETH NOT ITSELF, IS NOT PUFFED UP, DOTH NOT BEHAVE ITSELF UNSEEMLY, SEEKETH NOT ITS OWN, IS NOT EASILY PROVOKED, THINKETH NO EVIL; REJOICETH NOT IN INIQUITY, BUT REJOICETH IN THE TRUTH; BEARETH ALL THINGS, BELIEVETH ALL THINGS, HOPETH ALL THINGS, ENDURETH ALL THINGS."
I Corinthians 13:4-7

LOVE SUFFERETH LONG

Contrary to what appears to be the popular attitude, long suffering means patience instead of the "poor me" complaint - "Oh, look at how long I've suffered!" True love is patience. Love never flares in flames of retribution but rather waits silently with gentle meekness. One of the most beautiful instructions given by our Savior, which ideally illustrates long suffering patience, was Christ's response to Simon Peter's question, "How oft shall my brother or sister sin against me, and I forgive him or her? 'Til seven times?"

Peter must have asked this question with a tone of self-righteous pride for how generous he was being. The Jewish laws insisted an individual had to forgive three slights before being able to seek vengeance or redress. Peter took that figure of three, doubled it and threw in an extra time for good measure. But Jesus laughed at him, and with tender satire replied, "I do not say seven times, but 490 times, or seventy times seven" (Matthew 18:21-22). The meaning of Christ's response is that love's patience must be infinite.

LOVE IS KIND

Love is a benevolent consideration for the welfare of someone else, rather than a selfish seeking to have one's own needs met and fulfilled. True love is always ready to consider others with a view of extending goodness and kindness to them. So much of Christ's life on earth was spent in doing kind things. There is an enchanting beauty to the gentleness with which Jesus led the blind man out into the countryside to heal his blind-

ness, rather than doing so within the crowded center of the town (Mark 8:22-26), doing so with a considerable love. Christ evidently knew it would be less traumatic for the man's sight to be restored among peaceful surroundings than among the riot of colors and movement within the market place.

There is also the occasion when Jesus called the disciples aside to rest for awhile, because there were so "many coming and going that they had no leisure, so much as to eat". But no sooner had they departed to a desert place to be alone, than a multitude of people broke in upon their privacy. The first response of the disciples was to send these seekers away, but the Savior answered, "Give ye them to eat." Then followed that wonderful miracle of the feeding of the five thousand (Mark 6:31:44)

LOVE ENVIETH NOT

Envy is a feeling of ill will toward

those who we feel have somehow gotten a better roll of the dice than we have. Envy gives birth to covetousness of others' blessings and dissatisfaction with one's one lot. Love, however, is the opposite of envy. Jesus wonderfully exhibited this generosity of love when the disciples began to vie with one another for a position of authority among them as to "which of

WE ARE THE CHURCH

ALIVE!



COME, WORSHIP WITH US....

Metropolitan Community Church
of the Quad Cities
1618 West Third Street
Davenport, Iowa

319-322-5055
319-322-5513

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES 11:50 AM

WE ARE A CHURCH FOR ALL PEOPLE!

Mailing address: P.O.Box 4095, Davenport, Iowa 52808

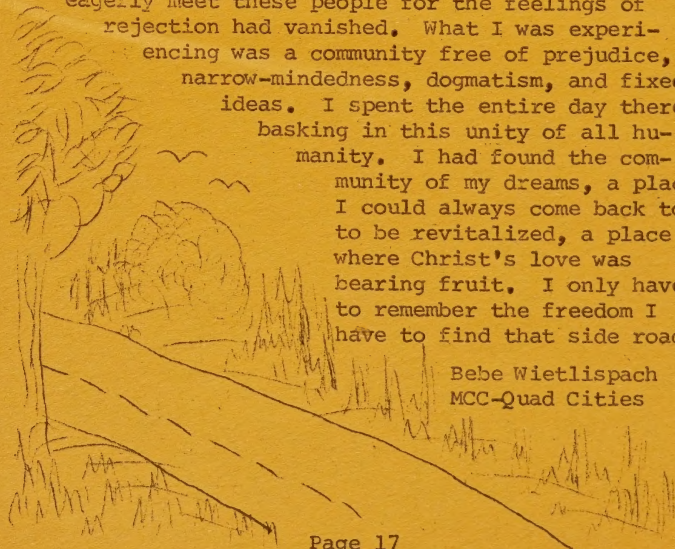
A VISION

Got into the car the other day and just started driving with no destination in mind. I saw this side road ahead and decided to see where it would lead. The further down the road I went I realized I could smell the fragrance of every flower in the field. I could feel the warmth of the sun relaxing all my muscles. For the first time in my life I felt complete relaxation.

As I turned the bend this small community came into view. Everything was so clean and well-kept. I was low on gas so I pulled into this gas station at the edge of town. This unpretentious little old man came out to help me. We started to talk and then I realized our conversation was not strained - it flowed freely and there was a happiness we were sharing with each other. I told him I was hungry and he directed me to this cute little restaurant with calico curtains on the windows.

When I walked in I swear I was back in my grandma's kitchen again. There was peace and comfort in this room. People were smiling and greeting one another with genuine love. I reached out to eagerly meet these people for the feelings of rejection had vanished. What I was experiencing was a community free of prejudice, narrow-mindedness, dogmatism, and fixed ideas. I spent the entire day there basking in this unity of all humanity. I had found the community of my dreams, a place I could always come back to to be revitalized, a place where Christ's love was bearing fruit. I only have to remember the freedom I have to find that side road.

Bebe Wietlispach
MCC-Quad Cities



TO RUSSELL & ALAN, CLUB 506

A special thank you from the entire "We Are Family" family and from our family of MCC-Quad Cities for your continued support of our efforts on behalf of our community. Many see you both as shrewd businessmen. I personally see you both as conscientious human beings working fervently to make this life a little less bitter, a little less difficult, and a little less downtrodden. Thank you for the many contributions to all of us who rarely take the time to give credit where credit is due.

--Thank you for freely permitting and encouraging women to come and enjoy the company of their friends in your establishment, and giving our sisters an evening with special women's music - Tuesdays are refreshing for many of us at your Club.

--Thank you for taking the time and the patience to work with the youth of our community. To give them the chance to prove themselves worthwhile productive people with a sense of belonging is more than a noble gesture - it is caring.

--Thank you for allowing our fellowship MCC-Quad Cities to have literature available at the bar for distribution to our community. Your club is our only outlet in this metropolitan area.

--Thank you for earnestly listening to and responding to the many requests and suggestions made during the course of your average day, whether it be a customer, friend or acquaintance - you listen, you care.

--Thank you most of all for showing us the real Alan and Russell, the kind, responsive, good people I know you both to be.

With love and appreciation,
David Shockley
MCC-Quad Cities

them should be counted the greatest." Love's answer to this was "I am among you as the one who serveth."

Too often the labors of a Christian are spoiled by the loveless, unattractive spirit of envy! Rather than feeling joy for someone's advantage or advancement, we are more likely to resent it with envious indignation. We would do well to test ourselves continuously with the question, "Does the superiority or success of another stimulate me to envy or to joy?"

Frequently, we'll bury our one talent rather than use it as five- and ten-talent people do; because we feel short-changed in receiving less than they have. And, like the servant in the parable, we allow that envy to develop into a resentment even against God (Matthew 25:24). Irregardless of what others are doing, can we always say, "I am among you as one that serveth"?

LOVE VAUNTETH NOT ITSELF

On the opposite side of the coin from envy there is pride. To vaunt oneself is to parade one's imagined superiority over others. Stephen Olford has quoted someone quite effectively on this subject: "Folk admire the peacock for the grandeur of its plumes, until they are driven away by the discordant tones of its voice."

We often have a misquotation from Proverbs that "Pride goeth before a fall", and the danger of that misquotation is that it implies merely a stumbling from which one can pick himself or herself up quite easily. The actual quotation is much more severe in its warning: "Pride goeth before DESTRUCTION, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18).

How beautiful it is when we can imitate the modesty which Christ showed in all the words and actions which were performed in Galilee, Samaria and Judea. Concerning the words, Jesus would say: "My doctrine is not mine, but Yahweh's that sent me" (John 7:16) and also "The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but Jehovah that dwelleth in me" (John 5:19). Here, surely, was love's modesty in action.

LOVE IS NOT PUFFED UP

To counteract pride, one must know humility. To puff oneself up is to manifest conceited self-esteem and vain snobbery. Paul has not only written this idea to the Corinthians, but he also expressed

it most meaningfully to the Romans: "Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to those of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits" (Romans 12:16). One of the apostles was even more terse in expressing a warning against pride and self-esteem: "But now ye rejoice in your boasting: all such rejoicing is evil" (James 4:16).

It is a tragic reality that some followers of our Savior take great pride in their humility. Instead of practicing true humbleness, many fall into the error of being arrogant about their "superiority" of being a Christian. How different was the life of the One who personified what we should be; who personified all of the aspects of love's behavior. We should frequently remind ourselves that Christ "made himself of no reputation....he humbled himself and became obedient unto death" (Philippians 2:7-8).

LOVE DOTH NOT BEHAVE ITSELF UNSEEMLY

The behavior of love is the showing forth of courtesy. Love can never be rude, for rudeness is the antithesis of love. Love is always considerate and polite. We should not forget that courtesy is not merely a matter of advantageous station; it is a matter of the spirit. It has been well said that "what breeding does by training, love does by instinct."

The true kindness and gentleness of Christ has been perfectly described in the words: "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy" (James 3:17). If only we could remember those words and also the additional warning that we should "speak no evil of no person, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all people" (Titus 3:2).

One of the unfortunate phenomena of our community is the epidemic use of "put down" humor. Quite often these insults escalate beyond competitive humor into barbed, lethal words which may only temporarily hurt the object of their attack, but cause far more serious damage in the long run to the ones inflicting the poison. It is as if we take the living water and pour it out into the gutter even as we hear the voice of the crucified Christ crying out, "I thirst".

Love seeketh not its own Love is very selfless rather than selfish, self-forgetting rather than self-serving.

the Son and the Holy Ghost" written beneath it.

Α Ω

THE ALPHA AND OMEGA, upper left, are the First and the Last letters of the Greek alphabet, signifying that Jesus is the beginning and the end of all things

as stated in Revelation 1:8. They are frequently seen flanking the Chi Rho.

THE I.N.R.I. MONOGRAM, upper right, is made of the initial letters for the Latin superinscription

I N R I

which Pilate had placed on the Cross:

IESUS NAZARENUS REX IUDAEORUM or Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews (See John 19:19).

Χ Ρ Σ

THE CHI-RHO-SIGMA MONOGRAM, center left, consists of the first two letters and the

last letter of the Greek spelling of Christ (CRISTOS). The horizontal bar above the center of a word is the Greek sign that that word is an abbreviation.

THE ALPHA-MU-OMEGA MONOGRAM, center right, is

another frequently used symbol for our Savior. It consists

of the initial letters of the Greek words for "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" (See Hebrews 13:8).

Α Μ Ω

THE I.H.S. MONOGRAM, lower left, is made of the first three letters of the Greek spelling of Jesus.

Older versions can be seen reading I.H.C. Contrary to popular opinion, it does NOT mean "In His Sign" or "In His Service" but only the name of Jesus.

THE NAME OF GOD, lower right,

is shown here in its Hebrew spelling for "YAHWEH" (HWHY), which typically of classical Hebrew, used no vowels. Jesus encouraged us to pray to God, and to ask that the name of God be hallowed, or made holy.

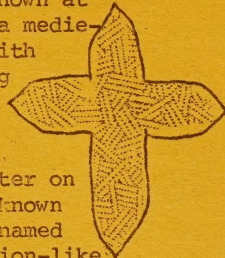
יהוה

More symbols next issue. Until then, God bless you!



BYZANTINE CROSSES are usually, but not always, made of arms that have wider ends that narrow towards their connecting center, and most are usually highly decorated and often encrusted with expensive jewels.

THE LANCET CROSS, shown at the upper right, is a medieval French design with each arm-end coming



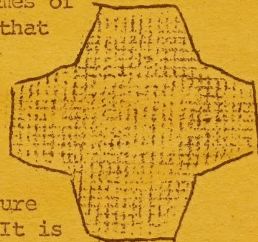
to a very narrow, sharply pointed arch. It is said to be symbolic of the pain of the Crucifixion.

THE OGIVE CROSS, shown at the center on the left, and sometimes known as The Ogee Cross, is named for the S-shaped, onion-like



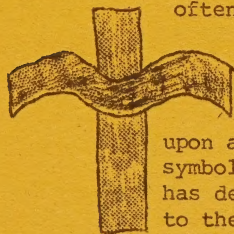
globes at its arm ends. It dates back to the 14th century Gothic architecture of central and Eastern Europe. Some feel it was inspired by the domes of the cathedrals of that time.

THE MASTABIC CROSS, shown at the center

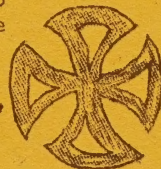


on the right, is an ancient Arabic design with flat-ended, outward-sloping arms, reminiscent of the ancient Egyptian architecture used in their mortuary chapels. It is

often used either in tiles or in windows.



THE YOKE CROSS at the bottom to the left, recalls the yoke, or wooden beam used to hitch a pair of oxen to a wagon, when placed upon a cross to form the cross's beam symbolizes someone who has devoted their life to the professional ministry.



THE PERSIAN CROSS, bottom right, is the emblem for all Orthodox Christian Churches in Persia (now Iran) and surrounding countries. It has the Arabic words "In the name of God the Father,

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Love never seeks its own advantage. Campbell Morgan has written, "Perhaps this is the profoundest word about the self-emptying capacity of love." It is why it has been called "love's divinity", for only divine love is capable of emptying itself in the interests of others.

Our humanity often gets in our way when we try to be loving. We find it most difficult to be totally unselfish in our interrelationships with others. Too frequently our behavior in befriending the strangers, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and visiting the sick and those in prison is to be certain that our charities are noticed. It would do us well to constantly remember that we know the grace of a Christ that "though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye, through his poverty, might be rich" (II Corinthians 12:5). To be remembered also are Paul's

MCC'S DEACONS PANTRY

In order to help provide food for members of our community who are in need, and thus fulfill the instructions of Christ to feed the sheep, MCC-Quad Cities is asking members and friends to help us stock a Deacons Pantry by bringing one or more of the following items to church each week:

Apr 17.....Canned Chili or Canned Mushroom Soup
Apr 24.....Canned Chicken Soup or Canned Enchiladas
May 1.....Jar of Spaghetti Sauce or Canned Apricots
May 8.....Canned Tamales or Canned Beef Stew
May 15.....Canned Chow Mein or Canned Lima Beans
May 22.....Canned Tuna or Canned Vegetable Soup
May 29.....Box of Crackers or Canned Chicken Soup
Jun 5.....Canned Ravioli or Canned Peaches
Jun 12.....Jar of Mayonnaise or Canned Pears
Jun 19.....Box of Teabags or Canned Fruit Cocktail

Of course, any donations of non-perishable food items are always welcome, appreciated, as are any donations of cash to purchase perishable dairy products, bread and meat. May God bless you real, real good. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

words, "I have showed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35) and "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves" (Romans 15:1).

Love is not easily provoked

Most of our modern translations omit the word "easily" which has been used in the King James Version, because it did not appear in the original Greek. I feel they are right to avoid it, since the expression, "easily provoked", has been used as a cop-out by many people to falsely rationalize and justify their temper tantrums. True love offers no excuses for provocation, exasperation, irritation - is never touchy.

Our human tendency is to be hyper-sensitive to actual and fantasized slights. This has led to exaggerated behavior in which many minor vexations, which we inflate out of proportion, become full-scale aggravations. If they can't be found, we create them in order to fuel our fury.

The crowning glory of our Savior is that Christ never was impatient, but always forgiving. Jesus could very easily have expressed exasperation amidst all the pressures of his busy program, but he never answered back, even in spite of the many unpleasant things hurled at him by friends and foes alike. His friends said, "He is beside himself" (Mark 3:21), and his foes cried, "He hath a devil, and is mad" (John 10:20). A friend betrayed him with a kiss, and foes nailed his tortured body to a cross, yet Jesus' response remained loving and forgiving and unprovoked.

LOVE THINKETH NO EVIL

Love does NOT keep a ledger sheet to account for evil done and reckon up its grievances. In this aspect, love is a very poor mathematician.

Love's lenience in forgiving AND forgetting is something we seem to have problems obtaining, for too often we carry within our hearts a type of scorecard so that we can constantly rehash the past, embroider-

aspect of love is the crown of all that has gone before. It represents love's victory. Such endurance is something for which we all hunger and thirst. Some of us find it and are able to keep it, but others seem to be unable to make love endure for more than a brief while.

I believe the failure of those who haven't found a way to keep love alive lies in the possibility they have not realized the triune interaction which is necessary. It is not by accident that Paul added several more thoughts after defining the meaning of love. He closed the chapter by writing "and now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (I Corinthians 13:13). Without living fully with all three elements, none of them can survive alone.

We can endure. The example has been given us. The writer of Hebrews tells us that, for the joy that was set before him, Jesus "endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).

Let us walk in Christ's own faith, hope, and love.
Amen.

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

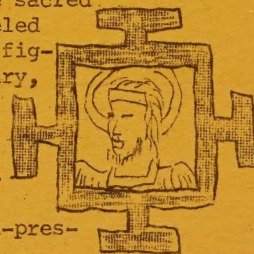
CONTINUED FROM LAST FIVE ISSUES



ICONS take many different forms and styles but usually incorporate a cross in their design. They are primarily used by the Russian and Greek Orthodox Churches. These ICONS (from the Greek EIKON, "image") are sacred

paintings or enameled portraits of such figures as Christ, Mary,

Joseph, the Apostles, and various saints. The ICON on the left is a Lithuanian design, and the one on the right is of ancient Armenian design. Sometimes ICONS are encrusted with precious and semi-precious stones.



complain of someone else's behavior it is because we feel guilty for having done the same things ourselves, or we criticize someone's intentions because we know all too well that our own motivations are tainted by selfishness or anger. This is why Christ spoke: "How will thou say to thy brother or sister, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?" (Matthew 7:4).

We should resist the temptation to throw mud at someone, for invariably it is our own hands which get soiled first. "Judge not, that ye be not judged" (Matthew 7:1) is a warning we should treat with great seriousness. Likewise is Paul's message, "If a person be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1) should be given constant consideration.

LOVE HOPETH ALL THINGS

Love is reassurance, always optimistic and undiscourageable. When others have long ago given up, love hopes on. Our beloved Savior never gave up hope for even the most depraved of people. Those who were the rejects of society, unwanted and condemned by the world, found redemption and salvation through the love of Christ Jesus. Each of the Gospels contain evidence of the liberation from despair given to people who had lost all hope, only to find it again through the healing encounters with Jesus.

One of the most eloquent examples of the battle between despair and redemptive hope exists in the story of the Crucifixion. There were two malefactors (which literally means "wrongdoers") who were put to death on either side of Jesus' cross. Both of these individual wrong doers had been judged by society as unworthy, unwanted and unredeemable. One went to his death convinced by the opinions and attitudes of society that he was damned. The other, possessing a kernel of hope within his inmost being, reached out tentitively in a hope to be remembered when Christ entered into the presence of God. The response is one that all who seek with love and hope have received: "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).

LOVE ENDURETH ALL THINGS

The final segment of the fourteen definitions of love is one that celebrates love's perserverance. This

ing it continually.

How easily Jesus could have reckoned up the evil done to him throughout that eventful day when he was led from Gethsemane eventually to Golgotha. But even as the nails were being driven into his hands and feet, his loving prayer was heard: "Forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

Our human forgiveness to one another is consistantly enjoined throughout the New Testament. In addition to the words to Peter regarding seventy-fold forgiveness, Christ also said, "When ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any; that your God which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses" (Mark 11:5); and Paul has added, "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any person have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye" (Colossians 3:13).

LOVE REJOICETH NOT IN INIQUITY, BUT REJOICETH IN THE TRUTH Here is the integrity of love. Moffatt has exquisitely translated this segment: "Love is never glad when others go

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wrong. She is gladdened by goodness." The Jerusalem Bible also has translated it with great clarity: "Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins, but delights in the truth."

The beauty of this integrity is best revealed to us in the 8th Chapter of the Gospel of John. There we find the account of a group of judgemental hypocrites gloating maliciously over the fact they've caught someone else in the very act of sin. With exultant self-righteousness they dragged the unfortunate woman into the presence of the gentle Jesus, hoping to hear her receive a strong condemnation. But what a shocking turn of events awaited them!

Instead of siding with the cackling accusers, our Savior challenged them with a searching question: "The one that is without sin among you, let that one first cast a stone at her" (v.7). And they, "being convicted by their own consciences, they went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last" (v.9). With grace and gentle love Jesus turned to the embarrassed, self-condemned woman and spoke: "Hath no one condemned thee? She said, No one, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go and sin no more" (vv.10-11). This is the integrity of love, to act first in truth and then in grace.

LOVE BEARETH ALL THINGS Love is silence, for love patiently and quietly endures, when it has to suffer, without breaking down or complaining to others of what a burden it has to bear. This is an aspect of love many of us find very difficult to live by. We seem to seek sympathy for what should be silent and joyous cross-bearing.

We should at all times remember how Jesus so silently endured when subjected to the accusations made against him by the false witnesses at his trials before Caiaphas and Pilate. He met these insidious attacks in silence, unlike our human tendency to scream bloody murder. We should keep in mind that Jesus answered "never a word" (Matthew 27:14).

The desire to seek revenge with a vindictive retaliation is universal and eternal. When James and John sought Christ's permission to "command fire to come down from heaven" to consume a Samaritan village which had not welcomed them, Jesus responded, "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of", and added that the Son "is not come to destroy lives but to save them"

(Luke 9:51-56). Jesus also said: "Resist not evil; but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to that person the other also" (Matthew 5:39); and Peter has written: "Not sending evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing" (I Peter 3:9).

LOVE BELIEVETH ALL THINGS The idea behind this particular clause has nothing to do with credulity but rather with the absence of suspicion. Love has an innocence that does not seek for hidden meanings or secret intentions behind the words and actions of others. Suspicion is one of the quickest ways in which we strangle relationships. Some people are always suspicious, but those who allow themselves to be love-motivated will ever put the best construction on things.

Much of our suspiciousness and uncharitableness comes from guilty consciences. Most often when we

Do you feel you need an excuse in order to justify your drinking? Do you use the excuse you need a drink to prevent illness, even when you feel sick the next morning? Do you use the excuse you need a drink to relieve tension, even when it seems to lead to getting into fights? Do you use the excuse you need a drink to relieve your frustration, even when it creates a further sense of being alone in the world?

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# DISTRICT CONFERENCE SCHEDULE: NOV. 18 - 20

## FRIDAY

7:30 pm Worship with Rev. Don Johnson, preaching

## SATURDAY

9:00 am Prayer Meeting with Rev. Jimmy Brock  
10:00 Meditation Workshop, with Rev. Arthur Green  
NOON Lunch  
1:30 pm Workshop for the Government Systems and Structures Commission, with Rev. John Gill  
3:30 District Business Meeting  
5:00 Rest and Shower  
7:00 Pot Luck Dinner ala Jacksonville

## SUNDAY

9:00 am Deaf Ministries Workshop with Richard Johnson, of MCC, Houston, Texas.  
10:00 Worship with Jacksonville and Installation of new District Officers.

## GAY PARENTS' GROUP NOW FORMING

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### GEN. CONF. (cont'd.)

persons, to celebrate and consecrate Holy Communion with equal validity at all authorized worship services, as determined by each local church.

#### A.I.D.S. RESOLUTION

The Conference passed another resolution calling the fellowship into leadership in responding to the A.I.D.S. Crisis. The resolution calls for Church responsibility in the areas of: 1) PASTORAL CARE, in the form of seeking out and SUPPORTING those A.I.D.S. patients in our area; 2) EDUCATION, in a Christian sex-positive, gay positive and wellness

- positive manner to our entire community; 3) POLITICAL ACTIVISM, in the form of educating local officials on monies for research, legal issues and availability of government administrated services; 4) SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, in the form of asking some difficult but important questions about sexuality and gay ethics that the A.I.D.S. Crisis calls for. This includes a call to reject and remove all paranoia from our total community in the areas of health care, emergency calls, housing, employment and especially, Church activities.

DEAR FAMILY,

In Thessalonians 5 it is written, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you". As we approach this season of Thanksgiving we might note a few truths about giving thanks.

First of all, it is God's will for us. Why? Because if we don't give thanks to God for people, things and events, we might forget that God is the creator and sustainer of all these and begin to look too superficially at life. In Romans I, we are reminded that the primary sin is to worship the creature rather than the Creator. We have only one Source and that is God. No matter how important the means might be, without the Source it couldn't exist. So, though we are careful to be thankful for each other, nature, etc., our main gratitude is always reserved for God.

Secondly, we are told to give thanks "in every thing". This is often rather hard for us. People, things or events that we find pleasant or enjoyable are easy to give thanks for. But, what about the painful and difficult? This is part of the "in every thing", but this kind of thanksgiving is given in faith. What we are saying is that we know God to be good and loving toward us; therefore, we accept this situation knowing that God will make plain the good in it sooner or later. Remember, our faith is not in circumstances or events but in the nature of God as revealed by Jesus Christ.

Thirdly, how do we give thanks? Well, certainly we can think it and we can say it. However, I think we best show it forth in our lives. A life lived in gratitude has a loving, accepting and peaceful attitude about it. The way we meet with problems probably shows us more about where we are spiritually than anything else. It certainly constitutes our witness to Christ in our lives.

We all have a great deal to be thankful for. One common blessing we have is our Church. Two years ago there was no spiritual group for our people. Today we have a flourishing Church with a full program. THANK YOU, GOD.

LOVE,  
TOM



## From The Editor:

Day after day, the media bring increasingly depressing and discouraging news. And now it's almost time for Thanksgiving. What can we be thankful for?

We are blessed with an overwhelming majority of good, solid citizens who form the unified strength that has held our country together in the past and who hold out hope for its future. There are employers who care about their workers, workers who honestly care about their jobs, unsung heroes in government who render honest, dedicated service to their constituents and the nation. Yes, we have uninfluenced judges; conscientious parents; persevering medical staff; brave policemen and firemen; spiritual leaders who mete out solace and strive to instill and preserve moral and spiritual values. The list goes on.

We're a very fortunate people to live in this country. The Constitution

and Bill of Rights may not be perfect yet, but they serve as guideposts for solving problems through the process of reason. In the United States, unlike many countries in the world, gay men and women are free to: debate the issues of the day; elect our officials; criticize the President; move freely from one neighborhood to another; change jobs; travel at will; read whatever we like; meet whomever

we wish. Gay bars, gay organizations and Churches with specialized ministries for gay men and women are non-existent in many parts of the world, simply because gays don't have anything.

Americans have always had the courage, the fortitude and the compulsion to seek new horizons, to find a better way to forge on. And they, too, had to combat apathy among their ranks, and the pessimism and cynicism of the people. For GAY AMERICANS, too, that is the continuing challenge that is before us this Thanksgiving.

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DANI DI PONZIO  
ILENE JABLON

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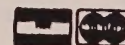
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HELLO BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

What a month we had! Bob and Jerry's Holy Union -- Beautifully done. Thanks to all those that helped to make it so right. Speaking of those two marvelous guys -- their Early Halloween Party: A SUCCESS, even though I didn't win a prize. Buddy, you never looked lovelier. My favorites were that divine Bag Lady and the Lizard.

The G.M.B. (Gay men's Bridge) instruction group coming along steadily -- my students better than me already -- does that tell you something? Yes, all beauty and no brains.

Another non - church activity that many of our church members enjoy is our Gay Bowling League -- you should see Toni D. bowl. By the way Toni, that haircut is great! Jan P. is still up north and I learned today that her father passed away. So Jan will need our prayers and support, because her mother is not well at all.

I love our new location -- perfect setting, Agree? Now let's get down to brass tacks. We have an unusual group in that there is marvelous rapport between the guys and gals. But we need to keep a balance in our membership -- So come on you guys and join M.C.C. We have many people who enjoy and participate in our activities -- don't be afraid of commitment -- you'll be surprised at how good you'll feel after joining. It's the best group in Palm Beach to belong to. Now you members-- it's your turn. Let's make

new people and visitors feel welcome. I'm guilty, too, but I promise to work on this.

By the way, our Mango House porch is going to be getting a new look in the coming two weeks -- We're coming along.

(Cont'd. p. 12)

## AIDS Update:

### IN PALM BEACH COUNTY:

A 45-year-old man from Pahokee has become the county's 15th case of AIDS, according to Dr. Dale Tavris of the Palm Beach County Health Dept., who said that the latest victim is a drug abuser.

Since January, 8 of these 15 patients have died of the syndrome. And of these 15, only 1 is identified as belonging to the homosexual high-risk group, although 1 additional victim has been identified as belonging to two high-risk groups: homosexuals and IV drug abusers. Other high-risk groups involved: 5 IV drug abusers, 5 Haitians, 1 hemophiliac, but 2 are not yet identified.

### FLORIDA CASES UP 30%

The number of Floridians afflicted has jumped nearly 30% in the past month -- double the rate of new AIDS cases reported nationwide, says a report from the national Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

Nationwide, AIDS cases during the same period increased 14.5%, from 1,972 cases to 2,259 cases.

Florida retains its ranking as the state with the third largest number of AIDS victims, behind California and New York.

### NO DIAGNOSTIC TEST YET

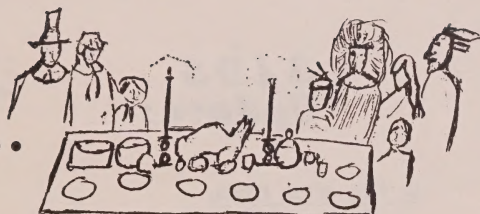
At the present time, there is no individual, nor group of laboratory tests that is 100% specific for diagnosing AIDS. The diagnosis of AIDS in a patient is a clinical one, that is, it is made by a

qualified physician after he has a combined evaluation of a physical exam, patient's history, blood and other diagnostic procedures and has proven the presence of an opportunistic disease. Research continues to show that the disease is not acquired through casual contact with AIDS victims, and is not known to be transmitted through food, water, air or environmental surfaces.

AIDS IS NOT A GAY DISEASE !  
RATHER, GAYS WERE THE  
PRIMARY AMERICAN VICTIMS OF  
AIDS. AIDS IS NOT A  
HAITIAN DISEASE ! IT  
EVIDENTLY HAD ITS ORIGINS IN  
THE TROPICS, AND HAITIANS  
WERE AMONG ITS FIRST  
VICTIMS IN THE CARIBBEAN  
AREA.



# Thanksgiving: Who Do We Thank....



It seems that whenever people have tilled the soil and nurtured their crops into fruition, they have always paid homage to the heavenly being who has permitted them such good fortune. And they have taken care by means of sacrifices to ensure the continued beneficence of the Higher Power.

The harvest festival, with its attendant rites, seems to have spread out from a relatively small area of land, from Egypt and Syria and Mesopotamia.

English fishermen in Newfoundland in 1578 had a Thanksgiving Day; and along the coast of Maine in 1607, the colony set aside a day for giving thanks. Nevertheless, our contemporary

holiday traditions find their direct origin in the Pilgrim settlers.

By most standards, the first harvest was very mediocre. But the only meaningful standard was whether there was enough to survive on. The first Thanksgiving in 1621 lasted three days, and was celebrated with enthusiasm and joy. But it was two years before the Pilgrims had another, because a two-month drought in 1622 destroyed the meager crops. But as new settlers rowed ashore, each community set aside its own Thanksgiving Day.

The first national Thanksgiving Day was proclaimed and set by George Washington in 1789.

## MCC NETWORK NEWS:

BY TRUDY SEAVEY

### MCC of the Palm Beaches

Rev. Tom Bigelow, pastor, presided at our 2nd Annual Congregational Meeting, on Sunday, Oct. 23rd. Committee heads gave reports, the yearly financial report was heard, and the Pastor's Report was applauded. Recognition was given to the current and past officers and committee heads who served throughout this past year.

Election of officers was held with these results:  
CLERK: Susie Lynch;  
TREASURER: Herb Zebuth;  
Delegate: Terry Dieterle.

The congregation unanimously passed a motion to apply to the District for our MISSION status in the UFMCC!

A 1984 yearly budget of over \$28,300 was also unanimously passed.

### GAINESVILLE !!

A group of Gay Christians, under the supervision of the District Coordinator, have applied to the District to be accepted as an MCC Study Group! They have already taken in their first members, and a Worship Committee is seeking a Pastor.

### LAKELAND !!

Gay Christians here, under the leadership of Student Clergy Mary Merriman, have also applied to the District for Study Group Status!

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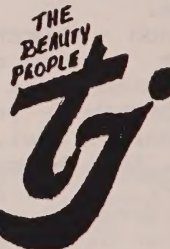
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# Bible Quiz:

1. In which book of the Bible do we find: "The human race has nothing to boast about to God... As Scripture says: 'If anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.'" ?

2. In which book of the Bible do we find: "There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving..." ?

3. In which book of the Bible do we find: "First I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you and for the way in which your faith is spoken of all over the world." ?

4. In which book of the Bible do we find: "Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen." ?

5. In which book of the Bible do we find: "Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together, and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your heart, so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God." ?

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Spend some time this week reading your Bible.
- Write down the answers and give them to Terry at Church, or mail it to the Church address.
- Names of the winners will be published next month; each receives one gold star!
- The translation used this month is the Jerusalem Bible, but you should be able to find these particular passages in any translation.

James W. DeLay Jr  
Born 11-18-30 died 2-11-83  
Remembering!  
My "Pooh Bear", Bill  
Chuck Pike



Your hosts, Kathy & Elaine

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Happy Hour 5:30-7:00pm  
Tuesday thru Friday

## \*\*\*\* COMING EVENTS\*\*\*\*

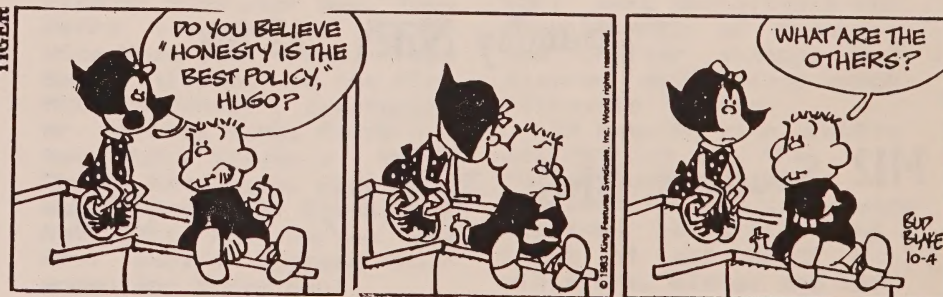
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6: 'Bring-A-Dish' Buffet 5:30pm  
TROPHY POOL TOURNAMENT 7:30pm

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26: 10:00PM  
Elaine & The Pink Winettes  
"OLDIES BUT GOODIES"  
Dress up in costume -----WIN a Trophy!!!!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17;  
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## SOCIAL Committee !

### ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

The Social Committee has finalized plans for our 2nd Anniversary Celebration which will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3 at the Tu-Tu Restaurant in Lake Worth.

The evening will begin at 6:30 pm with a cocktail hour (cash bar). Dinner will be served at 7:30 pm, and will consist of an appetizer, baked boneless breast of chicken, baked potatoe, vegetable, salad, beverage and dessert. Then follows a cash bar social hour.

We encourage each and everyone to attend. Cost for the dinner is \$9.00 per person. Tickets are now available from any Social Committee member or Rev. Tom Bigelow. We hope to see you all there.

### THANKSGIVING DESSERT - BUFFET

Mango House will be hosting a Dessert - Buffet, on Thursday, Nov. 24, from 7pm to 10pm. Coffee will be provided.

Please bring those yummy desserts you just couldn't finish earlier in the day. Or, if you wish, bring desserts you haven't tasted yet!

Everyone is welcome to stop by -- especially those who have no other plans to celebrate with family or friends. Feel free to join your Church Family at Mango House.

### A REMINDER

The Social Committee is simply a means to organize your ideas, suggestions, etc., into activities that we can all enjoy. Give us all of your favorite HOLIDAY IDEAS ! !

### WHEN DID YOU LAST INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH ?

A survey was taken recently among a group of suburban churches and 34% of the church members said they joined because neighbors or friends invited them to that Church.



# CHOIR NOTES !

by DANI DI PONZIO

The MUSIC MAKERS is a happy group of people who meet each Wednesday nite with our Orchestrator, Charlie Fredrickson, and try to assemble a repertoire of songs that is both inspiring and pleasing to the congregation. Gathering at Tony's home for at least an hour and a half, we enjoy the accompaniment of Charlie and Tony, at the guitar and organ.

Choosing which songs to prepare for Sundays is generally done by consensus: someone will suggest a song and we'll try it. If we are moved to do so, we'll go for it; if not, we'll put it down and go on. Some of our singing is for our own inspiration and enjoyment; the hymn most requested is "Just A Closer Walk With Thee".

We realize that there are some Sundays that the music isn't "upbeat enough" and sometimes it isn't "downbeat enough". We are hoping that you will understand that what comes together before you on

Sunday mornings is very often a small miracle -- especially when the desired effect is actually achieved. (Surprises us all the time!)

The cast of "A Chorus Line" we're not; but above all else, the purpose of our music and song is to "Praise the Lord". We just happen to do it in the key of 'Charlie'!

## HOOTER, cont'd.

Last Saturday night, WOW! What another marvelous Halloween Party given by Linda, Norma and Trudy! The most unusual, inventive, ingenious costumes -- Karen L. as the Shriner great! Yes, Buddy, again, you never looked lovelier; and Wooly, you were ghastly -- ugh, all that hair, not my type at all. All my medical aides and Steve, you can operate on me anytime. That tall number, Gary, so appealing -- Loring, so romantically medieval -- Sharon, so butch!! That Dice gal - so rollable! and the Witches and Monsters scary!

My ADVICE FOR THE MONTH... Try to see how the other person see the things you don't agree on; and more importantly, learn how they feel.

Hoot Hoot My Lovelies,  
THE GAY HOOTER

# U.F.M.C.C. Conference Held, Passes Resolutions

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

The proposal for changing the geographic divisions of the U.S. MCC's was referred from the floor of the Conference to the Commission on Government Structures and Systems. The proposal will be considered for adoption at the 1985 General Conference in Sacramento, California. The Board of Elders was instructed to work with the Third World Ministry Dept. to implement more Third World representation at all levels of the Fellowship.

## BY-LAW CHANGES

Several By-Law Changes were passed, including that a lay person may now be elected District Coordinator; more definitions for requirements of Mission and Charter status; and clearer definitions about titheable income.

In keeping with UFMCC's affirmation of the "priesthood of all believers", the Conference resolved to affirm the right of all UFMCC ministers, clergy and lay

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches celebrated its 11th International General Conference last July in Toronto, Canada. Over 700 MCC registrants represented over 27,000 members from the U.S. and eight other countries.

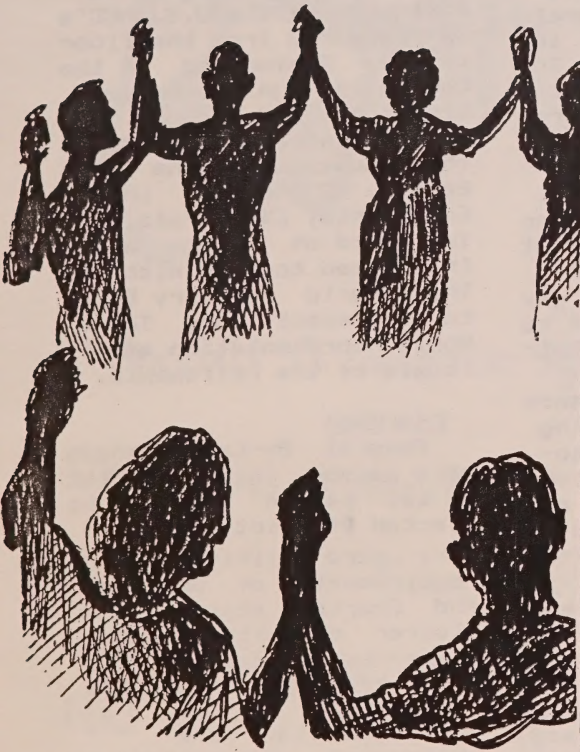
The purpose of the bi-annual conferences is an organized attempt to meet the spiritual and educational needs of those gay men and women who seek to know of God's love in their lives.

The General Conference itself is the governing body of the UFMCC. Day-to-day operations and interpretations of By-Laws are supervised by the Board of Elders: Moderator Rev. Troy Perry (founder of MCC); Vice-Moderator - Rev. Freda Smith (liason to the Fla. MCC Churches); Treasurer - Mr. Michael Mank; Clerk - Rev. Nancy Wilson; World Church Extension: Rev. Jean White. The other Elders are Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey and Rev. Donald Eastman (four women and three men).



# GAYS GIVING THANKS...

## IN NOVEMBER



| SUNDAY                                                                               | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                | THURSDAY                                                                  | FRIDAY                                                              | SATURDAY                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                      |        | 1       | 2 MUSIC MAKERS:<br>call 471-0932<br>8pm at Tony's House<br><br>Student Ministers':<br>8pm at Mango House | 3 DEEPER LIFE STUDY<br>8pm at Mango House                                 | 4 GAY RAP GROUP<br>OPEN TO ALL !<br>Call 655-9228<br>for directions | 5 FELLOWSHIP NIGHT<br>8 - 10 pm<br>at Mango House<br>DIFFERENTLY-ABLED GAYS<br>2 - 4 pm<br>at Mango House |
| 6 WORSHIP SERVICE<br>11 am:<br>--Womens' Club--<br>Behind Library<br>Downtown W.P.B. | 7      | 8       | 9 MUSIC MAKERS: 8pm<br><br>Student Ministers'<br>8pm                                                     | 10 DEEPER LIFE STUDY                                                      | 11 GAY RAP GROUP<br>OPEN TO ALL !                                   | 12 FELLOWSHIP NIGHT<br>8 pm                                                                               |
| 13 WORSHIP SERVICE<br>11 am                                                          | 14     | 15      | 16 MUSIC MAKERS: 8pm<br><br>Student Ministers'<br>8pm                                                    | 17 DEEPER LIFE STUDY                                                      | 18<br><br>DISTRICT CONFERENCE IN JACKSONVILLE ! !<br>-----          | 19                                                                                                        |
| 20 WORSHIP SERVICE<br>11 am<br><br>NEWSLETTER<br>DEADLINE                            | 21     | 22      | 23 MUSIC MAKERS: 8pm'<br><br>Student Ministers'<br>8pm<br>NEWSLETTER WORKSHOP<br>8pm at Mango House      | 24<br><br>THANKSGIVING<br>DESSERT - BUFFET<br>7 - 10 PM<br>AT MANGO HOUSE | 25 GAY RAP GROUP<br>OPEN TO ALL !                                   | 26 FELLOWSHIP NIGHT<br>and<br>NEWSLETTER WORKSHOP<br><br>DIFFERENTLY-ABLED GAYS<br>2-4 pm at Mango House  |
| 27 WORSHIP SERVICE<br>11 am                                                          | 28     | 29      | 30 MUSIC MAKERS: 8pm<br><br>Student Ministers'<br>8pm                                                    | (1 - December)                                                            | (2)                                                                 | (3)<br><br>2ND ANNIVERSARY<br>BANQUET !<br>6:30 pm<br>Tu-Tu Restaurant,<br>Lake Worth                     |









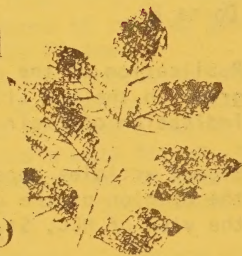


# The New Light



'Lo, I Am  
With You  
Alway,  
Even Unto  
The End Of  
The World'

—Matthew 28:20



5108 Waterman Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63108

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METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH  
OF  
GREATER ST. LOUIS

Reverend P. Thomas Jordan, Pastor

The NEW LIGHT is a publication of the Metropolitan Community Church of Greater St. Louis, a chartered Church of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We invite all persons, regardless of age, national origin, race, socio-economic status, sexual preference, or religious persuasion, to share with us in our church life and community. All are welcome.

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Publication of the name of any business, person or group in the NEW LIGHT shall not be construed as any indication of their religious or sexual orientation.

Signed articles appearing in the publication reflect the opinion of the author and are not necessarily the view of MCC, St. Louis.

All contributions to the NEW LIGHT will be greatly appreciated. Any current news items, articles, testimonies, original writing, etc. should be received by the Editor/Staff by the 10th of each month.

Send to: The NEW LIGHT  
M.C.C.  
5108 Waterman  
St. Louis, MO 63108

NEW LIGHT STAFF: Editor: THE LORD

## DECLARATION OF FAITH

Our faith is based upon the principles outlined in the historic creeds: Apostles' and Nicene.

### WE BELIEVE:

IN ONE TRIUNE GOD, omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient, of one substance and of three persons: God - our Parent-Creator; Jesus Christ - the only begotten Son of God, God in flesh, human; and the Holy Spirit - God as our Sustainer.

That THE BIBLE IS THE DIVINELY INSPIRED WORD OF GOD, showing forth God to every person through the law and the prophets, and finally, completely and ultimately on earth in the being of Jesus Christ.

That JESUS...THE CHRIST...historically recorded as living some 2,000 years before this writing, is GOD INCARNATE, of human birth, fully God and fully human, and that by being one with God, Jesus has demonstrated once and forever that all people are likewise Children of God, being spiritually made in God's image.

That THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD making known God's love and interest to all people. The Holy Spirit is God, available to and working through all who are willing to place their welfare in God's keeping.

EVERY PERSON IS JUSTIFIED BY GRACE to God through faith in Jesus Christ.

WE ARE SAVED from loneliness, despair and degradation through God's gift of Grace, as was declared by our Saviour. Such grace is not earned, but is a pure gift from a God of pure love. We further commend the community of the faithful to a life of prayer; to seek genuine forgiveness for unkind, thoughtless and unloving acts; and to a committed life of Christian service.

THE CHURCH SERVES to bring all people to God through Christ. To this end, it shall arrange for regular services of worship, prayer, interpretation of the Scriptures, and edification through the teaching and preaching of the Word.

### THIS CHURCH EMBRACES TWO HOLY SACRAMENTS:

BAPTISM by water and the Spirit, as recorded in the Scriptures, shall be a sign of the dedication of each life to God and God's service. Through the words and acts of this sacrament, the recipient is identified as God's own Child.

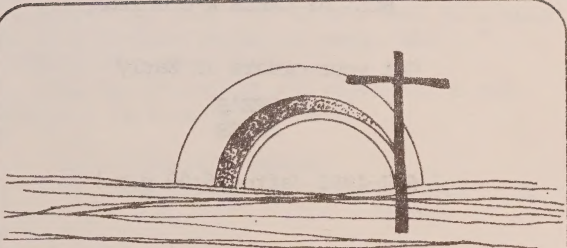
HOLY COMMUNION is the partaking of blessed bread and fruit of the vine in accordance with the words of Jesus, our Sovereign, "This is my body...this is my blood." (Matthew 26: 26-28.)

All who believe, confess and repent and seek God's love through Christ, after examining their consciences, may freely participate in the communal meal, signifying their desire to be received into community with Jesus Christ, to be saved by Jesus Christ's sacrifice, to participate in Jesus Christ's resurrection, and to commit their lives anew to the service of Jesus Christ.



# Pastor's

## page



From the rising of the sun  
to its setting...  
the name of the LORD  
is to be praised!

--psalm 113:3

Dear Friends,

God continues to pour out blessings upon us as we continue our journey. We had an outstanding Spiritual Renewal with Rev. Dusty Pruitt. There were many healings and the sense of revival permeated the air. We are richly blessed.

Recently we took in five new members and our choir continues to grow and the quality of our music program enhanced. God is about a mighty work.

As we continue to seek God's will for us, the congregation voted at the meeting not to purchase the building at 3452 Potomac St. God obviously has something better for us.

I pray that each and everyone of you are experiencing the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit. It is written: "Do Not Fear, For I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." Let us together look to Him and seek God First and all else shall be added unto us. May the Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on you this day.

In Christ's Love  
Tom



And I will give them  
one heart, and one way . . .  
—Jeremiah 33:39



*Help carry one  
another's burdens; in  
that way you will  
fulfill the law of  
Christ.*



Gen 6:2

#### HAIR-CUT-A-THON

This is to let everyone know that on the 2nd Saturday in December we will have a Hair-Cut-A-Thon! This is to help raise money for the Building Improvement Fund. It will be at the church from 3 pm until ??? No Appointments, so just drop on by. 4 cutters after 6. (Please wash your hair before you come, we can re-wet it.) Let Your Hair Grow!

Love Ya,  
Mark D.

#### HOLIDAY CAKES & COOKIES

Get your orders in Early

DEE'S  
CAKES

647-4992 (after 6:00 p.m.)

One night I stopped for an hour to examine the sky. It was a beautiful evening; the stars seemed to be one great star. As I looked upon the glory of the heavens, they seemed to be so great and so high and so wonderful; the longer I gazed, the more impressive the scene became to me. Then I thought of the Lord, of Christ, and how much I loved him. The more I thought about it the more I became filled with joy and love and peace. I stood in the ecstasy of that scene. I asked the Lord to help me bring all my mental powers, reason, memory, intelligence, to bear upon this emotional desire to love the Lord Jesus Christ. I thought my heart would break with my love for my wonderful, wonderful Lord.



—Edrie A. Regier



continue to allow me to share in your grief -- and  
I will share mine with you -- and that in sharing  
we can find healing amidst so many "why's."

Psalms 46 assures us all

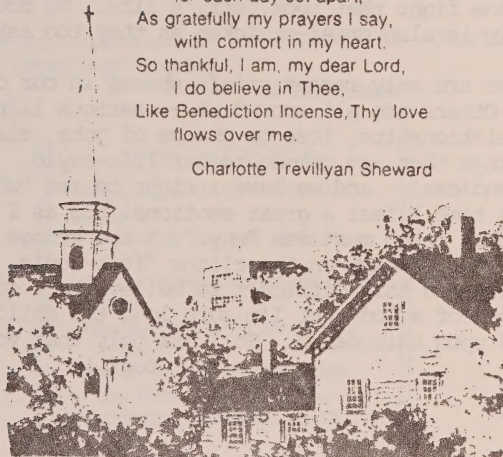
*God is our refuge and strength, a very  
present help in trouble. Amen*

From the Pastor  
Metropolitan Community Church of  
Topeka

## Comfort

Dear Lord, I am so comforted  
in my great love for Thee.  
My worries fall like petals  
and my faith burns deep in me  
The thankfulness within my heart,  
the comfort that I feel,  
Will lighten every burden  
as in prayer I humbly kneel.  
So thankful I am, my dear Lord,  
for each day set apart,  
As gratefully my prayers I say,  
with comfort in my heart.  
So thankful, I am, my dear Lord,  
I do believe in Thee,  
Like Benediction Incense, Thy love  
flows over me.

Charlotte Trevillyan Sheward



The Celebration Committee is holding  
their 2nd annual turkey drawing. You may  
win one of nine turkeys. Tickets are 50¢  
each or five for \$2.00. See Lisa or Sandy  
or Judi for more information.

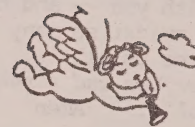
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORDIALLY  
INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL FALL  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 20, 1983,  
FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP.

## GOLD - C BOOKS

A tremendous value in coupons... Each book sells  
for \$6.00 with a \$3.00 profit for the Deacon's Fund.  
Support the Deacon's and save \$\$\$\$ at the same time!  
See any of the Deacon's for further information.



# Deacon's page



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the name that moves mountains and is above every name. On behalf of myself and the diaconate, we want you to know we love you! It is our wish above all things you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers.

It is because of this wish that we have embarked on putting into affect the parish ministry program. It is our hope that our entire family at MCC St. Louis will get to know one another better and become more closely knit together in the unity of the Holy Ghost. God has a mighty purpose for each one of us and has called us accordingly.

Some of the deacons will be calling on you by telephone. Some will have dinners. Some will be sending notes and letters. We are dedicating ourselves to seeing God's will carried out in the lives of His people. We ask you to pray for us and assist us in making a real success of this program. Let us grow up together in the full stature of Jesus Christ, that we might truly be more than conquerors through Him who loved us and gave Himself for us! Also, that together as God's mighty army we might preach the gospel to the poor; heal the broken hearted, preach deliverance to the captives and recover sight to the blind, set at liberty them that are bruised, and preach the acceptable year of the Lord. This we'll do that Jesus might be lifted up that all people might be drawn unto Him.

In the Service of Almighty God,  
Bro. Terry and the Diaconate

A few weeks ago, I joined other mourners as a member of our congregation and her family said "good-bye" to her brother who had experienced illness most of his life. And the question was asked, "why did he suffer so much?"

Less than two weeks later, we sat with this same family in the waiting room of a hospital as a child hovered dangerously between life and death from a gun accident. Again we asked, "why?"

This week, I again join with friends at a funeral of a man I never knew. But grief was ever evident around me. I saw brothers and sisters distraught for it had just been a few months since they buried their mother -- and now a brother whose accidental death seemed so senseless. And they, together with his friends ask, "why Terry?"

Today another young man sets in jail for his part in the fight that took Terry's life. No doubt his family is also grief-stricken as they too ask, "why?"

These are only recent griefs shared in our community. Others are all around us -- serious illness, broken relationships, loss or change of jobs, misunderstandings that are common to our life-style. The list is endless -- and we have a right to ask "why?"

Each time I feel a great emotional tug as I realize that I too must ask "why." I too cringe a bit when we fall back on the cliché "it's God's plan." If I find this difficult to believe hurt comes at the hand of a God that I'm sure love the children He placed upon this earth. So I ask only that you

(cont.)



## FROG

Ever feel like a frog? Frogs feels slow, low, ugly, puffy, drooped, pooped. I know. One told me. The frog feeling comes when you want to be bright and feel dull. You want to share but are selfish. You want to be thankful but feel resentment. You want to be big but are small. You want to care but are indifferent. Yes, at one time or another each of us has found himself on the lily pad floating down the river of life. Frightened and disgusted, but too froggish to budge.

A Fairy Tale. Once upon a time there was a frog. But he wasn't really a frog. He was a prince who looked and felt like a frog. A wicked witch had cast a spell on him. Only the kiss of a beautiful young maiden could save him. But since when do cute chicks kiss frogs? So there he sat - un-kissed prince in frog form. But miracles do happen. One day a beautiful maiden grabbed him up and gave him a big smack. Crash - boom - zap! There he was a handsome prince. And you know the rest. They lived happily ever after.

Observation. So what is the task of the Church?  
To KISS FROGS, of course.

-Wes Seelinger

### THOU ART, O GOD

Thou art, O God, the life and  
light;  
Its glow by day and smile by  
night  
Are but reflections caught from  
thee.  
Wherever we turn, Thy glories  
shine,  
And all things fair and bright  
are thine.

## COME OUT OF THE CLOSET!

My spouse recently remarked that there are at least two different closets most of us are trying to get out of. Of course there is the closet hiding our sexual identity. But there is also a "religious" closet in which people find themselves confined. And breaking out of these closets confronts us with many of the same problems and fears.

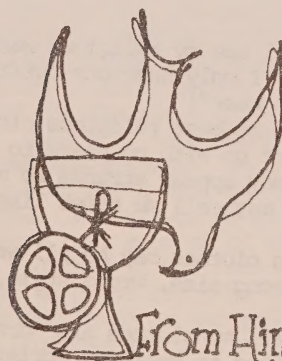
To be truly followers of Christ, we must put on our religious clothes, and, like all clothes, in order to enjoy them and have our relatives and friends see them, we must go out and be seen. Let's look at the religious closet and see some of the reasons we use for remaining in it, even though we know we should be proclaiming our faith openly to all.

1. Everyone will see my religious wardrobe is very small. in fact, I only have one outfit. "I don't have a thing to wear"!
  2. I may put on my best religious clothes and find, "I'm all dressed up with no place to go"!
  3. My clothes may appear strange to my family and friends and they may call me names like "Jesus freak".
  4. My religious clothes may be all wrong for me. They'll be the wrong size, wrong style, wrong color.
  5. I may find all my clothes are "dressy" and I have no "work" clothes to wear for Christ.
  6. I'd like to put on my religious clothes, but I want to be sure I look like everyone else. I want a religious "uniform" to wear.
  7. My old, tight and work religious clothes I still wear from my parents and childhood are comfortable and good enough. I don't need new clothes!
- (cont.)



Of course, no reason should really keep anyone in their religious closet. We must realize that Jesus Christ is the greatest tailor of them all, and when we come out of our closet, He promises us that our clothes will fit and be right for us. As we grow in spirituality, He will give us more and larger clothes. When we tear and wear out our clothes doing His work, He will mend or replace them and provide all the protective clothing we will need. Remember, regardless of fashion, fad or fancy, His garments are always the "In" style. As true Christians, we must step out of our religious closet, for you are never so well dressed as when you "...clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ." (Rom. 13:14)

Bob Bartole  
Sunburst '83  
Ft. Lauderdale



From Him,  
Through Him,  
and to Him  
Are all things...

## INCLUSIVE LECTINARY

The Division of Education and Ministry of the NCC will be offering an inclusive language lectionary for voluntary, experimental use in worship, group study and individual use. It is hoped that this version will spur people to greater sensitivity to language which speaks to and for all persons. We invite those who worship and who study the Bible to join in the effort to find ways to express our faith inclusively.

The Inclusive Language Lectionary represents an important inter-denominational effort to express the Christian message to all persons without bias. Based on the Revised Standard Version of the Bible as well as original Greek and Hebrew texts, readings in the Lectionary have been recast so that all who hear the word of God proclaimed will have a sense of equality; no one will feel excluded by language.

Like most other standard lectionaries, this one follows the pattern of a three-year cycle. The first volume, with readings determined by the Consultation on Church Union, will be ready for use during advent of 1983 and continue through Pentecost, 1984. This will be followed by separate volumes for Cycle B, ready in 1984, and Cycle C, available in 1985. Readings in the second and third volumes will be based on selections from the North American Committee on Calendar and Lectionary.

This Lectionary, the first of its kind to be published by an ecumenical church council, is a landmark attempt to rethink the language of Scripture as inclusive of both women and men.

THE INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE LECTINARY: READINGS FOR YEAR A. To be published by Westminster Press for John Knox Press, United Church Press, and Westminster Press. 6" x 9" paperback, \$7.95 (tentative price). Publication date is October 14, 1983.

Reprinted from Journey  
August/September 1983





BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

REFLECTIONS  
on the Fifteenth Anniversary  
of MCC

DESIDERATA

GO PLACIDLY AMID THE NOISE & HASTE, & REMEMBER THAT PEACE THERE MAY BE IN SILENCE. AS FAR AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT SURRENDER BE ON GOOD TERMS WITH all persons. Speak your truth quietly & clearly; and listen to others, even the dull & ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud & aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain & bitter; for always there will be greater & lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity & disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees & the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors & aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery & broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.

This year's Fellowship Sunday, October 9, was a celebration of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the founding of MCC (October 6, 1968). As I reflect on our 15 years of trying to build a church that both proclaims and lives God's love for all people, I think of the Biblical theme of "blessed to be a blessing." Genesis 12:1-5 records that Abraham and Sarah, the ancestors of Israel, were sent out by God from their safe, comfortable home into an unknown future in an unknown land with the promise that God would bless them and they would be a blessing. All peoples on earth would be blessed through them.

The Old Testament prophet Zechariah prophesied that the Judeans, who had been conquered and sent into exile, would be brought back together as a people and restored to their homeland. The restored and gathered people of Israel would be a blessing, even though they have been an object of cursing and derision (Zechariah 8:7-13).

In the New Testament the apostle Paul begins his Second Letter to the Corinthians with praise to the Provider of compassion and God of all comfort, "who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV).

We in MCC have been blessed by God in order that we might be a blessing of God to other people. We have been given many wonderful, exciting people, financial resources, and a daring, demanding mission. All of this is to transform us into a means of God blessing this world in which we live.

It is obvious, of course, that most of the people to whom we are called to be a blessing do not  
(cont.)



see MCC as a blessing. We stand in the middle between other churches, who denounce us for being Gay/Lesbian oriented and Gay/Lesbian affirming, and Gay liberationists and Lesbian feminists, who denounce us for involving ourselves in this oppressive and bigoted religious institution, the Church. Somehow, we have to witness to both sides and keep our sanity.

Everything under the sun has been done in the name of Christianity, but those of us who have been influenced and touched by Jesus of Nazareth know in our guts that the essence of what Jesus taught is *love*, not bigotry, intolerance, exclusivism, and moralisms. Jesus embodied God's love for every human being. MCC was called into being not to imitate other churches but to be a different kind of church. We were not gathered together to be just another Christian church only with a lavender tinge. Rather we are called to be a people who will both proclaim and live God's love for all people.

*MCC exists to be a blessing to Gay and Lesbian people.* Most Gay and Lesbian people believe in God, of course, but few have any understanding of God, let alone a relationship with God. Many are so turned off by institutional religion that they would never consider that the Church has anything for them. Many have never heard that the essence of the Creator and Sustainer of the universe is *not* cold, stern demands, but rather open, searching love. We have around us many sexual minority people who are miserable, lonely, empty and desperately searching for something. We exist to show God's love to them.

*MCC exists to be a blessing to everyone alienated from traditional religion.* We see around us a great search for meaning. People are grasping for something, anything, that can make their life mean something. And for the most part they do not find what they are looking for in a church. Most churches do not offer people any meaning, purpose and direction to their lives. Even those churches  
(cont.)

AIDS - The Questions Most People Ask ... (cont.)

and there's not a chance in the world that donating blood will give you AIDS," de Silva said.

- Q. What are the overall chances of getting AIDS?  
A. Just about zero for the general population.
- Q. Can AID be communicated by dishes, glasses and silverware?  
A. No
- Q. Are people of all races affected by AIDS?  
A. Yes. In the U.S., 56.9 percent of victims have been white, 26.2 percent black and 14.4 percent Hispanic.
- Q. Does AIDS always kill you?  
A. No. The mortality rate of AIDS victims so far has been 40 percent. Some AIDS victims develop only a mild case and will probably have a normal life span.

The toll-free AIDS hot line number is 800-342-AIDS.

A Public Health Service counselor is available to answer questions from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Eastern daylight time, Monday through Friday.

Reprinted from National Enquirer

# deacon's bazaar & craft

NOVEMBER 19, 1983

9:00 am - 5:00 pm







## AIDS - The Questions Most People Ask Special Govt. Hot Line

The AIDS hot line set up by the U.S. Public Health Service in July to avert public panic received as astounding 8,000 calls a day in its first two months - and here are the most commonly asked questions about the disease:

Q. What are its symptoms?

A. Fever, weight loss, swollen glands in the armpits, groin, or neck, fatigue, loss of appetite, diarrhea and waking up at night soaked with perspiration.

"But the symptoms are common to many diseases and the chances are that you don't have AIDS," said Robin de Silva, spokeswoman for the AIDS hot line. "However, if some or all of these symptoms persist for about two weeks, consult your doctor."

Q. Who has the highest risk of contracting AIDS?

A. Seventy percent of all AIDS cases are found in homosexuals or bisexuals; 17 percent are intravenous drug users and most of the remaining 13 percent are Haitians and hemophiliacs.

Q. Can AIDS be contracted through blood transfusions?

A. There's only a one-in-a-million chance of contracting AIDS through a blood transfusion  
(cont.)

Blessed to be a Blessing (cont.) - page 3

that do attempt to do so end up with judgmental, moralistic and narrow religion. MCC exists for everyone, whether they be homosexual, bisexual or asexual. We exist to show all a God who cares, a God who can give meaning and direction to life, a God who meets us and challenges us in real life right where we are. MCC is an option for all seeking an alternative to traditional, patriarchal and judgmental religion.

*MCC exists to be a blessing to the rest of the Christian Church.* Now you may ask, don't these members of the established churches already know God? An my response would be - Yes, they know some things of God and about God, but very few realize the implications of God's universal love and concern. Very few. The British theologian Norman Pittenger, in his book *GAY LIFESTYLES* (published by Universal Fellowship Press), wrote something that struck me:

*"I think that the religiously minded heterosexual who wants nothing to do with homosexual stands in need of conversion to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for Jesus associated with the outcasts, befriended those whom society rejected, and was concerned only to win all whom he could reach to an understanding of the il-limitable love of the God whom he called his, and their, heavenly Parent."*

I really think that any church-goer who is under the delusion that God despises Gay and Lesbian people and that God would never work through such people does not know the One who sent Christ Jesus into this world. Any church-goer who regards sex as "dirty" or as a necessary evil (and there are lots of them who do) does not know the One who created this world, who created sex, and who sent Christ  
(cont.)



Jesus to live a fully human life in this world. Any church-goer who regards God as a male and therefore thinks that all of God's ministers and spokespersons should be male does not know the God that Jesus disclosed, and they don't know their Bible very well either. We exist as a witness to all the Christian churches in this world to give them a more complete picture of the God they claim to worship.

No matter how much Christianity is distorted and warped by Christians, we in MCC cannot be anything else - because we are grasped, moved and directed by Jesus' message and lifestyle of love. MCC came into being and it continues to grow because we feel compelled to present and live Christianity as we know it. We are here to show the world the God we know in Jesus, the God we know as the ever-present Spirit.

MCC certainly does not have a monopoly on knowing the truth about God, but what we *do* know we need to share - with Gay and Lesbian people, with other Christians and churches, with anyone who will listen to us. Because of our past woundedness, oppression and rejection, we have come to know God better as Savior, Liberator, Lover, Rock of Strength and Healer. We can communicate what we have experienced and what we believe. We can communicate it by our compassion in words and in action, and by participating in healing and reconciling.

When I think of that MCC is called to be and to do in this world, I sometimes despair because our numbers and our resources are too small to meet the needs. But when this despair comes upon me, God usually finds away to remind me, "Just do what I ask you to do. This is my ministry, and I will take care of it." And I can only say to God, "Amen - so be it." Would you join me in prayer:

*Thank you, God for bringing us together in this*

(cont.)

Have you ever been on a hayride that lasted for days because you couldn't get rid of the hay? That's what happens when you go on a MCC hayride. Everyone enjoyed throwing hay at each other and having the hay rubbed in their hair. It was a very enjoyable evening. Everyone had a good time of fellowship and getting to know each other.

#### MAILING LIST UPDATE

We are attempting to improve the efficiency of our mailing list. If you spot any errors on your mailing label, or if you receive multiple mailings to one household and wish to receive only one, or if you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please call the church office or send us a note indicating the change. Please also include the new label code on the edge of the address label.



#### VOTING

It is important for all eligible persons to be registered voters - only by voting can we exercise our political strength.

Voter information can be obtained from the Board of Elections and the League of Women Voters.

Please register to vote - it's your only chance to have a real say about your future.



ANSWER TO QUESTIONS OFTEN ASKED

"How do I know what is God's will in my life?"  
"How will I know if it's truly the Lord talking,  
guiding, directing me and not my own self-will?"

'My Child,

If you wish to hear what I have to say and wish to treasure my commandments within you, turn your ears towards wisdom (knowledge) and set your heart to understanding.

If you will cry out for the ability to know good and evil and will lift your voice for understanding and will seek wisdom as you would silver and hidden treasures, then you will discover the knowledge of God and learn the fear of the Lord.

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring, forever, the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. It is a fountain of life which leads to and prolongs life. In the fear of the Lord there is a strong confidence. (1)

For the Lord gives wisdom. From God's mouth comes knowledge and understanding. The Lord stores up sound wisdom for the upright and is a shield to those who walk in completeness (wholeness), guarding the paths of justice and preserving the ways of the Godly ones.

If you do these things then you will know my will in acting rightly, in justice, in impartiality and in every good cause. For wisdom will enter your heart and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. The ability to make responsible decisions will guard you and understanding will watch over you to deliver you from the ways of evil.'

Paraphrased: Proverbs 2:1 - 12a

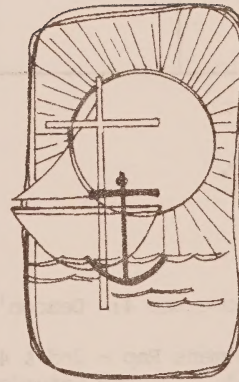
(1) selected scriptures paraphrased

Ps. 19:9, 111:9 - Prov. 1:7;

9:10; 10:27; 14:26,27; 19:23

new and different church called MCC. Help us to see ourselves as you see us, God. Help us to see the mission that you have laid out before us to be a blessing. Give us the courage, the strength, the patience, and the compassion to do what you ask us to do. Teach us God. Fill us with your Spirit. Use us. Amen.

by Jeffrey Pulling  
Samaritan Extended Studies  
Reprinted from Journey  
August/September 1983



I am  
the Way,  
the Truth and  
the Life.  
No one can  
come to the  
Father  
except  
through me.



# November 1983



## REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS :

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                        | Monday | Tuesday                                            | Wednesday                                     | Thursday                         | Friday                                                                          | Saturday |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 10:00-Choir Rehear.<br>-Membership<br>classes<br>10:45-Singspiration<br>11:00-AM Worship<br>6:00-Joyful Noise<br>Choir Rehear.<br>7:00-Charismatic<br>Worship |        | 7:00-Women's A.A.<br>7:30-Gay Men Support<br>Group | 7:30-Bible Study<br>8:00-Prayer and<br>Praise | 7:00-Growing Amer-<br>ican Youth | 7:00-MCC Orchestra<br>Rehearsal<br>-Women's Rap<br>(2nd and 4th<br>Friday only) |          |

## SPECIAL EVENTS !!!

November 4: Deacon's Craft Work for Bazaar

Womens Rap - 2nd & 4th Friday

AA - Saturdays 4:00 p.m.

Womens AA - Tuesdays 7:00 p.m.

Gay Men's Support Group - Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.

Bible Study/Prayer and Praise Service - Wednesday 7:30

G.A.Y. - Thursdays 7:00 p.m.

Choir - Sundays 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.









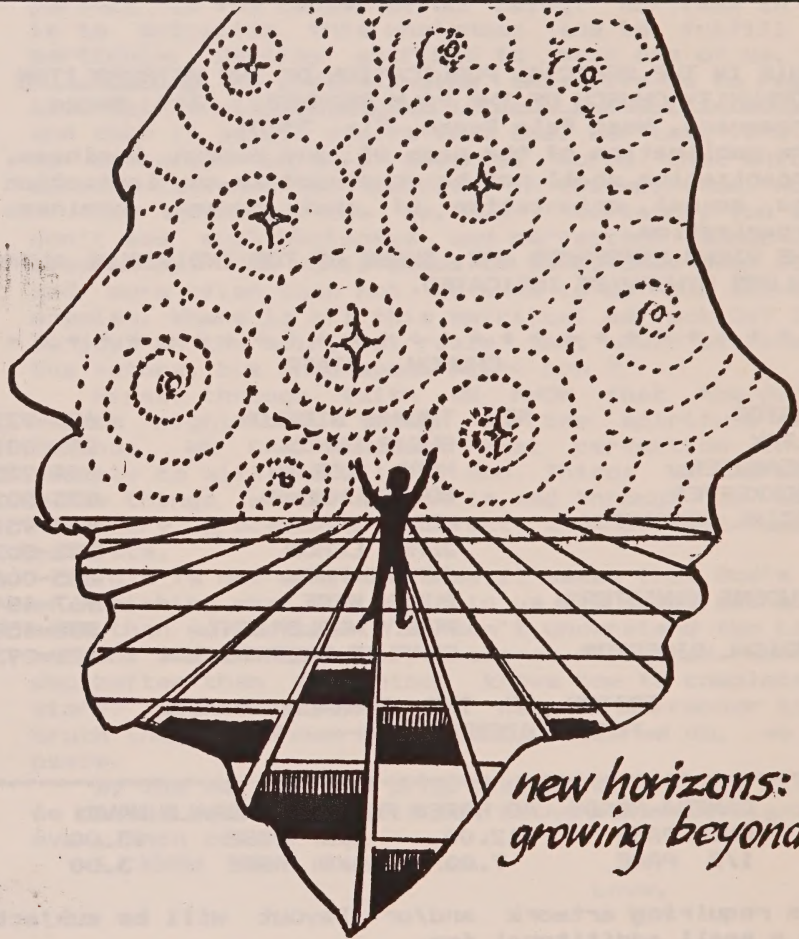




OCT.

1983

THE EMERALD WAVE



*new horizons:  
growing beyond...*

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+++++  
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|                    | WOOLY WOOLBRIGHT    | 585-4584 |
| MUSICAL DIRECTOR   | CHARLIE FREDRICKSON | 471-0932 |

EDITOR OF THE EMERALD WAVE :  
 TERRY DIETERLE -- 967-4845

~~~~~  
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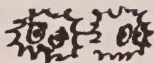
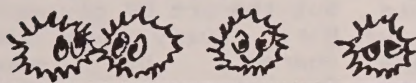
MCC-PB FINANCIAL REPORT:

AS OF 08/31/83

YTD FROM 1-16-83

INCOME:		MONTH	YTD
GENERAL OFFERINGS	\$	422.00	\$ 4,603.34
PLEDGE OFFERINGS		998.00	8,151.00
SPECIAL DONATIONS		-0-	1,161.00
FUNDRAISING/SOCIALS		-0-	169.00
NEWSLETTER		47.00	607.50
SPECIAL FUNDS		-0-	179.44
INTEREST INCOME		-0-	36.36
TOTAL	\$	1,467.00	\$ 14,907.64
EXPENSES:			
SALARIES:	REGULAR	\$ 560.00	\$ 4,620.00
	SPECIAL	62.00	496.00
	OTHER	144.00	1,122.16
OUTSIDE SERVICES:	PROFESSIONAL	-0-	300.00
	ALTAR	-0-	21.00
SUPPLIES:	GENERAL	-0-	11.20
	CLEANING	25.93	46.13
	OFFICE	-0-	115.55
	NEWSLETTER	-0-	41.89
PRINTING:	BULLETINS	-0-	52.31
	NEWSLETTER	60.31	346.91
RENT:	(two months)	1,012.00	3,958.50
TELEPHONE:		114.51	577.11
UTILITIES:		143.75	342.78
INSURANCE:	MEDICAL	-0-	593.05
TITHES:	10% HOME OFFICE	168.96	1,592.59
	2% DISTRICT	33.79	324.91
POSTAGE:		-0-	80.31
MISCELLANEOUS:	CONFERENCE	-0-	60.00
BANK CHARGES		25.00	45.38
TOTAL EXPENSE:	\$	2,350.25	\$ 14,747.78
NET OPERATING CAPITAL (DEFICIT)	\$	(883.25)	\$ 159.86
LESS CAPITAL EXPENDITURES		-0-	\$ 1,160.00
ACTUAL OPERATING (DEFICIT) INCREASE	\$	(883.25)	\$ (1,000.14)

himself how very fine it as of old.
 had felt to get a Warm But something almost
 Fuzzy from someone, and always stopped them.
 he would resolve to go Usually, it was going
 out and begin giving outside and seeing 'how
 them to everyone freely, the world was'.



a SPECIAL THANKS

--For the generous help to install the ramp at Mango House; and also, for the many prayers while I was hospitalized.

YOUR support helps me deal better with my disease and its limitations.

IN RETURN, I am able to support others thru the Differently - Abled Gays Group, who are not blessed with a family of friends such as yourselves. So, again, THANKS !!
 Cherie Cashen

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Contact:

Bob Grummons

833-8026



DEAR FAMILY,

St. Augustine wrote, "We must become what we are". Because God lives in us, we are already complete and perfect at the center of our being. Our task in life is to actualize this wholeness and to fulfill the particular destiny ascribed to each one of us.

The key to understanding this life is to realize that spiritually the work is done and all is complete and that it is all a gift from God. Our task is simply to encourage in this material world that which is already finished and perfect in the spiritual world.

The question now is, HOW? Certainly you and I don't see much wholeness and perfection about us or even in us. The world seems to be at odds with itself and more often than not we seem to be our own worst enemies. Where is all this spiritual perfection? If it is just in the spiritual realm that would be fine for the future, but what about right now?

First: through faith WE KNOW that the perfect exists right now, though in the spiritual realm. Second: WE CAN manifest that perfection in our ability to will the Will of God. Third: WE CAN accept those things which happen in and through us as the necessary process to manifest the perfect and the complete.

This is not easy because it seems that God's ways of finishing what God began in us are sometimes almost more than we can bear. We don't understand the Lord's methods and often sharply disagree with them. However, who better than the Author knows how to complete the story? So, sooner or later, we must surrender to the truth that God knows best; and, when we do, we find peace.

By the way, we can progress faster in this life if we decide to team up with God rather than to fight God every inch of the way.

I KNOW GOD LOVES YOU.

Love,
TOM

From The Editor:

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

My horizons were broadened recently, when I re-discovered an old, old game that some people play here in Palm Beach County. It's called "I'll Get Mine AND Screw You!"

In this game, the players do whatever they want to; there are no rules. To score points, or to win, a player must devastate the others with examples of accumulated wealth, exaggerated snobbery, the tastefully-trashy put-downs, and airs of superiority. Winning is achieved through the humiliation and the rejection of the other players.

I have seen two or more players gang-up on another player, in order to totally eliminate the one from having any significance in the game. But then the gang breaks up, as each player goes back to bullying and ridiculing the others.

The game may be played for hours at a time, but

some games may take only 60-90 seconds, depending on the number of players and the strength of their venom. A tight-lipped glare from the winner, and submissive silence from the other players usually indicates the end of the game. Scores and accumulated wins seem to be recorded only in the memories of those who are playing.

IN MY OPINION, this game should be XXX-Rated! It is definitely not for the innocent or the fair-minded. If you need an outlet for your pent-up bigotry, selfishness and general nastiness, then this may be your poison!

In I Corinthians, St. Paul says, "Be ambitious for the higher gifts ... In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love." ...

Speaking of love, be sure to read the Story of the Warm Fuzzies!

Terry Dieterle,
Editor

Prickly as a Warm Fuzzy. Giving a Cold Prickly seemed to be a way of reaching out to another person, but not so much in firendship and love.

And getting a Cold Prickly gave one a funny feeling too. You were not sure just what the giver meant; for after all, Cold Pricklies were cold and prickly. It was nice to get something from another person, but it left you confused, and often with stung fingers. The usual thing a Swabeedoo-dah said when he received when he recieved a Warm Fuzzy was "WOW", but when someone gave him a Cold Prickly, there was usually nothing to say but "UGH".

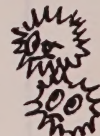
Some of the little people went back to giving Warm Fuzzies, and, of course, each time a Warm Fuzzy was given it made the giver and receiver very joyful indeed. Perhaps it was that it was so unusual to get a Warm Fuzzy from someone when there were so many of those Cold Pricklies being exchanged.

But giving Warm Fuzzies never really came back into style in

Swabeedoo. Some little people found that they could keep on giving Warm Fuzzies away without ever having their supply run out, but the art of giving a Warm Fuzzy was not shared by many. Suspicion was still there, in the minds of the people.

You could hear it in their comments: "Warm Fuzzy, eh? Wonder what's behind it?" "I never know if my Warm Fuzzies are really appreciated." "I gave a Warm Fuzzy, and got a Cold Prickly in return. Just see if I do that again." "You never know about Mabel: a Warm Fuzzy one minute, a Cold Prickly the next!" "If you won't give me a Cold Prickly, I won't give you one, Okay?" "I want to give my friend a Warm Fuzzy, but he just doesn't deserve it." "Sometimes I wonder if he has a Warm Fuzzy to his name."

Probably every citizen of Swabeedoo would gladly have returned to the former days when the giving and getting of Warm Fuzzies had been so common. Sometimes a little person would think to



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cold and prickly. It was nice to get something from another person, but it left you confused, and often with stung fingers. The usual thing a Swabeedoo-dah said when he received a Warm Fuzzy was "WOW", but when someone gave him a Cold Prickly there was nothing to say but "UGH!".

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But giving Warm Fuzzies never really came back into style in Swabeedoo. Some little people found that they

could keep on giving Warm Fuzzies away without ever having their supply run out, but the art of giving a Warm Fuzzy was not shared by many. Suspicion was still there, in the minds of the people of Swabeedoo. Deep in his cave, the Troll had spent many years digging Cold Pricklies out of the mountain, for he liked their cold and prickly feel. He filled hundreds of bags with Cold Pricklies and took them to the village.

When the people saw the bags of Cold Pricklies, they were glad, and they received them gratefully. Now they had something to give one another.

The only trouble was that it was not as much fun to give a Cold

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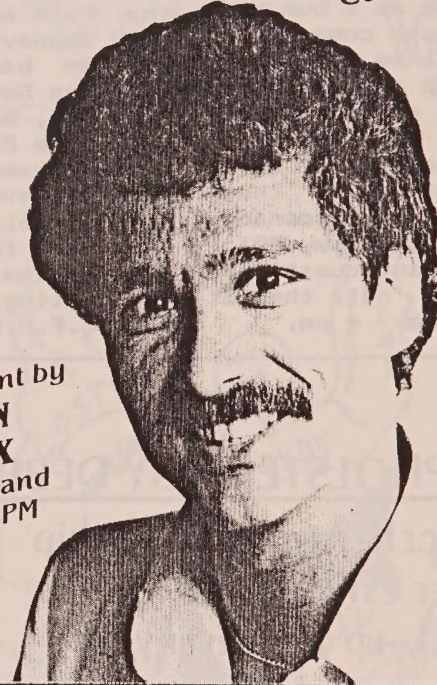
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SOCIAL Committee !

EARLY HALLOWEEN PARTY !

Dress yourself up as a King or as a Queen!! Or, dress yourself down as a bum or a hobo!! Or, just come as you want!! It'll be an evening of Fellowship and Love.

Just to get everyone ready for Oct. 31, Bob and Jerry are hosting a B.Y.O. Early Halloween Party at their home, 315 Mango Promenade, beginning about 7 pm, GST.

If you have any questions, feel free to call them at 833-8026, after 4 pm.

ANNUAL MEETING -- BRUNCH

The first Annual Congregational Meeting of M.C.C. of the Palm Beaches will be held Sunday, Oct. 23, at 2 pm in the back room of Howard Johnsons Restaurant on Belvedere Rd., between Dixie Hwy. and Olive St.

Arrangements have been made so that everyone attending will be able to order what they wish from the menu. Rev. Tom Bigelow will preside at the meeting, held in accord with U.F.M.C.C. By-Laws.

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of bags with Cold Pricklies and took them into the village.

When the people saw the bags of Cold Pricklies, they were glad, and received them gratefully. Now they had something to give one another. The only trouble was that it was just not as much fun to give a Cold Prickly as a Warm Fuzzy.

Giving a Cold Prickly seemed to be a way Deep in his cave, the Troll had spent many years digging Cold Pricklies out of the mountain, for he liked their cold and prickly feel. He filled hundreds of bags with Cold

Pricklies and took them to the village.

When the people saw the bags of Cold Pricklies, they were glad and they received them gratefully. Now they had something to give one another. The only trouble was that it was just not as much fun to give a Cold Prickly as a Warm Fuzzy. Giving a Cold Prickly seemed to be a way of reaching out to another person, but not so much in friendship and love.

And getting a Cold Prickly gave one a funny feeling too. You were not sure just what the giver meant; for after all, Cold Pricklies were



GAY A. A. & AL-ANON

SUNDAY 8:30 pm AL-ANON
Community United Church
5th St. and Park Ave.
Lake Park

MONDAY 8:30 pm MONDAY NIGHT STEP MEETING
Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
1103 Allendale Rd.
West Palm Beach

THURSDAY 8:30 pm LIVE AND LET LIVE GROUP
Community United Church
5th St. and Park Ave.
Lake Park

FRIDAY 8:30 pm HAPPY, JOYOUS and FREE
(open discussion)
Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
1103 Allendale Rd.
West Palm Beach

FOR MORE INFO, CALL A.A. INTERGROUP: 844-8800

GOD, grant me the SERENITY
to accept the things I cannot change,
COURAGE to change the things
I can, and WISDOM
to know the difference



all your Warm Fuzzies, one of these Swabeedoo-dahs days of yours, you're gonna run out of them?"

He noted the sudden look of surprise and fear on the little man's face, and then added, peering inside his fuzzy-bag: "You've only got a few Warm Fuzzies left there. Better go easy on handin' 'em out."

Now the Troll knew that every one of the little people had an inexhaustible supply of Warm Fuzzies. But he counted on the trusting nature of the little Swabeedoo-dahs. So he told his fib, and went back to his cave, and waited.

Well, it didn't take long. By the next day, the word had spread over the entire village. Everyone had suddenly begun to hoard their Warm Fuzzies. They still gave some away, but very, very carefully: "Discriminatingly", they said.

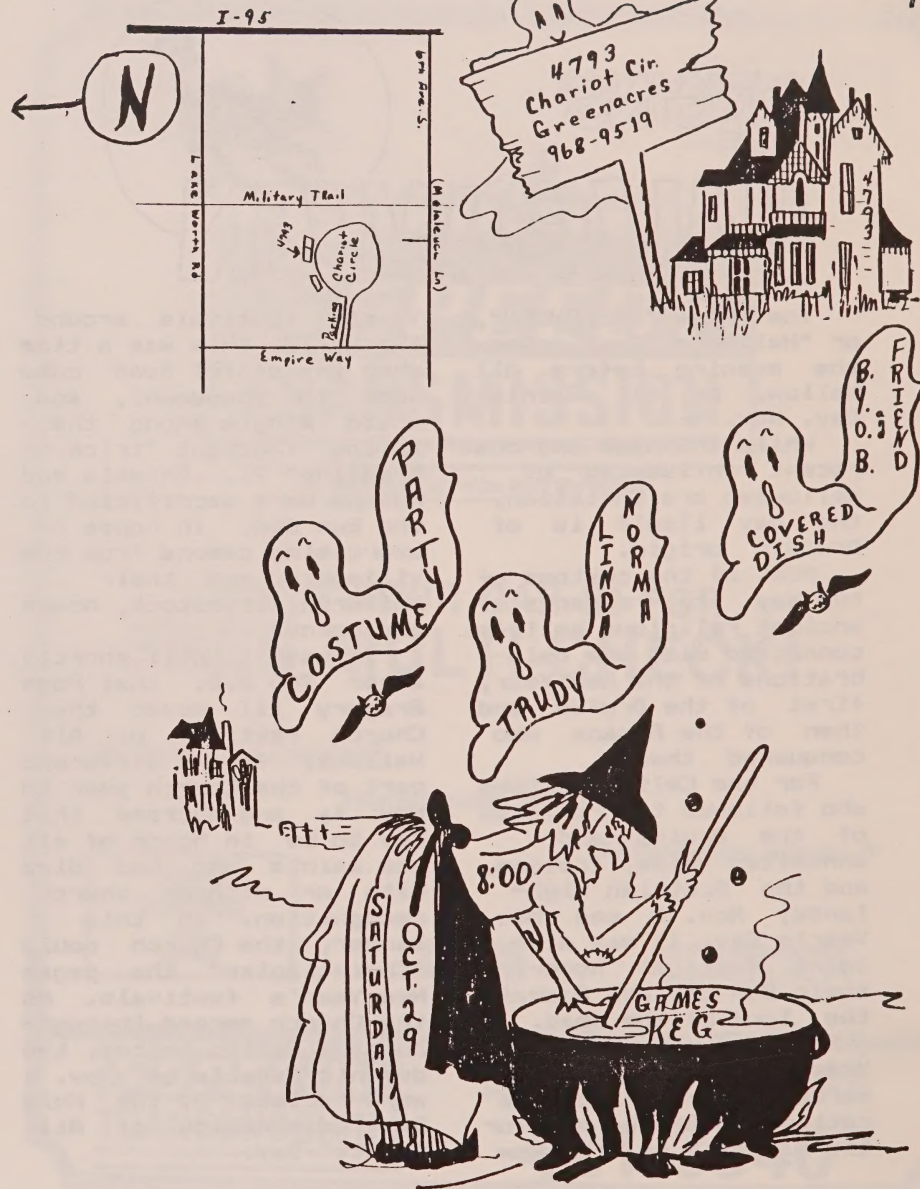
The little Swabeedoo-dahs began to watch each other with distrust. Quarrels broke out over who had the most Warm Fuzzies, and

pretty soon people began to trade Warm Fuzzies for things, instead of just giving them away. There were even some instances of robberies of Warm Fuzzies. Some dark evenings -- the kind the Swabeedoo-dahs had enjoyed for strolling and greeting each other to exchange Warm Fuzzies -- it was not even safe to be out and about.

But as time went on, worse things happened. Perhaps because no one ever gave them a Warm Fuzzy (no one knows), a few of the little people died. Now all the happiness was gone from the village of Swabeedoo, as it mourned the passing of its little citizens.

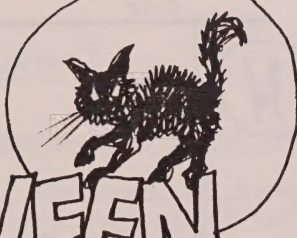
When the Troll heard about this, he said to himself, "Gosh! I just wanted them to see how the world was. I didn't mean for 'em to die". He wondered what to do. And then he thought of a plan.

Deep in his cave, the troll had spent many years digging the Cold Pricklies cut of the mountain, for he liked their cold and prickly feel. He filled hundreds



ORIGINS OF

HALLOWEEN



The name "HALLOWEEN", or "Hallow's 'Eve, means the evening before All Hallow, or All Saints' Day, Nov. 1.

While the name and most recent influences of Halloween are Christian, the day itself is of Druidic origin.

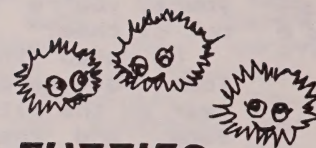
Most of the customs of the day are remnants of ancient religious beliefs connected with the celebrations of the New Year, first of the Druids and then of the Romans who conquered them.

For the Celtic tribes who followed the religion of the Druids and inhabited Wales, Ireland, and the Scottish Highlands, Nov. 1 was New Year's Day. It was also a joint festival honoring their Sun God and Samhain, the lord of the dead.

Nov. 1 was chosen New Year's Day because it marked the return of the cattle to the barns for the winter. As in New

Year's festivals around the world, this was a time when the sinful dead came back for judgement, and would mingle among the living (Ancient "trick or treating" ?). Animals and humans were sacrificed to the Sun God, in hopes of exorcising demons from the villagers and their children, livestock, homes and barns.

It wasn't until shortly after 700 A.D. that Pope Gregory III moved the Church festival of All Hallows, from a different part of the Church year to Nov. 1; and decreed that day to be in honor of all the saints who had died with or without church recognition. In this manner, the Church could "Christianize" the pagan New Year's festivals. As the Church spread throughout the Celtic tribes, the demonic aspects of Nov. 1 were replaced by the Holy Day celebration of All Saints' Day.



The STORY of the WARM FUZZIES

LONG AGO only little people lived on the earth. Most of them dwelt in the little village of Swabeedoo, so they called themselves Swabeedoo-dahs. They were very happy little people, and went about with broad smiles and cheery greetings for everybody.

One of the things the Swabeedoo-dahs liked best was to give Warm Fuzzies to one another. Now, it is an especially nice thing to give someone a Warm Fuzzy. It tells the person they are special. It is a way of saying, "I like you". You feel noticed and appreciated when someone gives you a Warm Fuzzy, and you want to do something nice for them in return. The little people of Swabeedoo loved to give Warm Fuzzies and get Warm Fuzzies, and their lives

together were very happy indeed!

Outside the village, in a cold, dark cave, there lived a great green Troll. He didn't really like to live all by himself, and somehow he didn't enjoy exchanging Warm Fuzzies. He thought it was a lot of nonsense. "It isn't cool", he would say.

One evening the Troll walked into town, and he was met by a kindly little Swabeedoo-dah.

"Here, have a Warm Fuzzy", said the little person with a smile. "This one's special, and I saved it just for you, for I don't see you in town that often".

The Troll looked about to see that no one else was listening. Then he put an arm around the little Swabeedoo-dah and whispered in his ear.

"Hey, don't you know that if you give away



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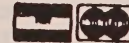
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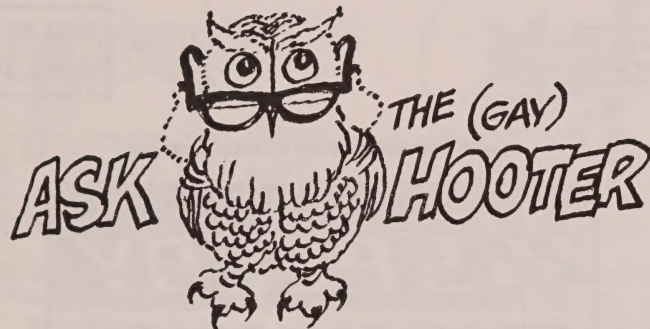


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HELLO BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

Something new! ME ! You will be hearing from me each month -- Bits of gossip, advice and commentaries. There will also be many personal opinions and observations, but let it be known now and hereafter: no bitchiness on my part (heh, heh, heh); only good stuff. Brought up in Pasadena, Calif. Teaching degree and married -- yes, a girl. During the 50's, the McCarthy era: being gay a no! no! AND teaching young children, Mercy!! Loved my wife, but being gay, very frustrating.

Yours truly drove 60 miles one night to L.A. to the Baths. First Time. Yes, got caught by the Vice Squad and END of teaching career!

So at 27 yrs. old I started my new life, gay,

gay, and free! New York City, L.A. again, Frisco and Beverly Hills: thirteen years of doing everything and everyone. Marvelous, buuuut tired!

So at age 39 headed for good ole Florida to be a nice ole faggot and dirty ole man. Would't you know, I met a LOVER and for the next 14 years with him.

Now we just broke up, but I'm not broken, just trying to simply remember the good moments. (Tom's advice.)

Since joining M.C.C. and loving Tom Bigelow, I feel so close to all of you -- a real family! I must mention here that I've learned since joining MCC that the young people are much more with it; still have same problems as we did, but do have more alternatives. (If they look for them.)

<Continued p.15>

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Your hosts, Kathy & Elaine

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Happy Hour 5:30-7:00pm
Tuesday thru Friday

SATURDAY, OCT. 15 !!

Elaine & the Pink Winettes !

-- OLDIES, GOODIES NIGHT ! --

All your favorite tunes from yesteryear!

<HOOTER Continued

NOW, YOU GALS -- I want to say we have in our Church group some of the greatest bunch of Ladies, yes, LADIES -- My definition of a Lady may sound old fashioned, but here it is: "A Lady is one who considers the feelings of others". Need I say more? I don't care how you dress, it's what's inside that counts. Speaking of dress -- There is someone who I adore that is really looking spiffier these days.

Now it's time to say a word about our Tom Bigelow. The word is: I've never met anyone so human and spiritual at the same time -- so, let's keep him in our prayers, as he needs much backing from all of us.

My hat is off to those marvelous people who consistently help out at the beginning and ending of our Church service.

Dolls, I am quite aware of the many people who should be mentioned in the Appreciation Dept., but I am just beginning this column. So, bear with me.

IF YOU WISH TO DROP ME A LINE, SUGGESTIONS, or QUESTIONS, OPINIONS, DOOO SO! Affairs of the heart: well, I'll do my best.

My advice for the month: Please don't fall in love with love; remember, the other party is important, too.

Love to all of you!
Hoot Hoot my lovelies,
THE GAY HOOTER

Bible Quiz:

INSTRUCTIONS

- A. Spend some time this week reading your Bible.
- B. Write down your answers on a piece of paper and give it to Terry Dieterle at Church, or mail it to the Church address.
- C. Names of the winners will be published in the next issue of the EMERALD WAVE, and each will receive one gold star.
- D. Answers will also be published in the next issue.
- E. The translation used this month is the Jerusalem Bible, but you should be able to find these particular passages in any translation.

1. In which book of the Bible do we find:
"You are newborn, and like babies, you should be hungry for nothing but milk -- the spiritual honesty which will help you to grow up to salvation -- now that you have tasted the goodness of the Lord." ?

2. In which book of the Bible do we find:
"Brothers and sisters, you are not to be childish in your outlook. You can be babies as far as wickedness is concerned, but mentally you must be an adult." ?

3. In which book of the Bible do we find:
"When I was a child, I used to talk like a

child, and think like a child, and argue like a child; but now I am an adult, all childish ways are put behind me." ?

4. In which book of the Bible do we find:
"...go on growing in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." ?

5. In which book of the Bible do we find:
"If we live by the truth and in love, we shall grow in all ways into Christ, who is the head by whom the whole body is fitted and joined together." ?



**ONE GOLD
STAR**

to:

**Marion
Anderson!**



In addition to their noon Sunday Worship Services, regularly scheduled events include "Changes Coffee House" hosted by Rev. Carlton every Friday night 9 to Midnight, and "Drummers", a Gay A. A. group which gathers at 8 pm each Saturday.

MCC Miami:

Pastor Arthur Green also just marked an anniversary with his congregation. Beginning his sixth year with the addition of a 10:30 am Sunday Bible Study group, he welcomes the continuing challenge of leadership.

Miami members are privileged to have a "Booktique" open to them each Sunday, in which they can purchase tapes of sermons, religious jewelry, books and gift items.

General MCC:

Every group responding to the call for news included mention of local concern over the growing number of AIDS cases. Most are holding symposiums and are distributing brochures.

MCC Jacksonville:

Pastor Don Johnson and staff have been actively engaged with a group from Gainesville in an effort to start a Study Group.

Gainesville and Jax will also combine for a Fall Retreat to Golden Head State Park, Oct. 14-16. The theme will be "Design Your Destiny".

MCC Ft. Myers:

September ushered in the third year of Rev. Lee Carlton's Ft. Myers work. Originally with the Church of God, Rev. Carlton was instrumental in founding MCC congregations in Tampa, Nigeria and England.

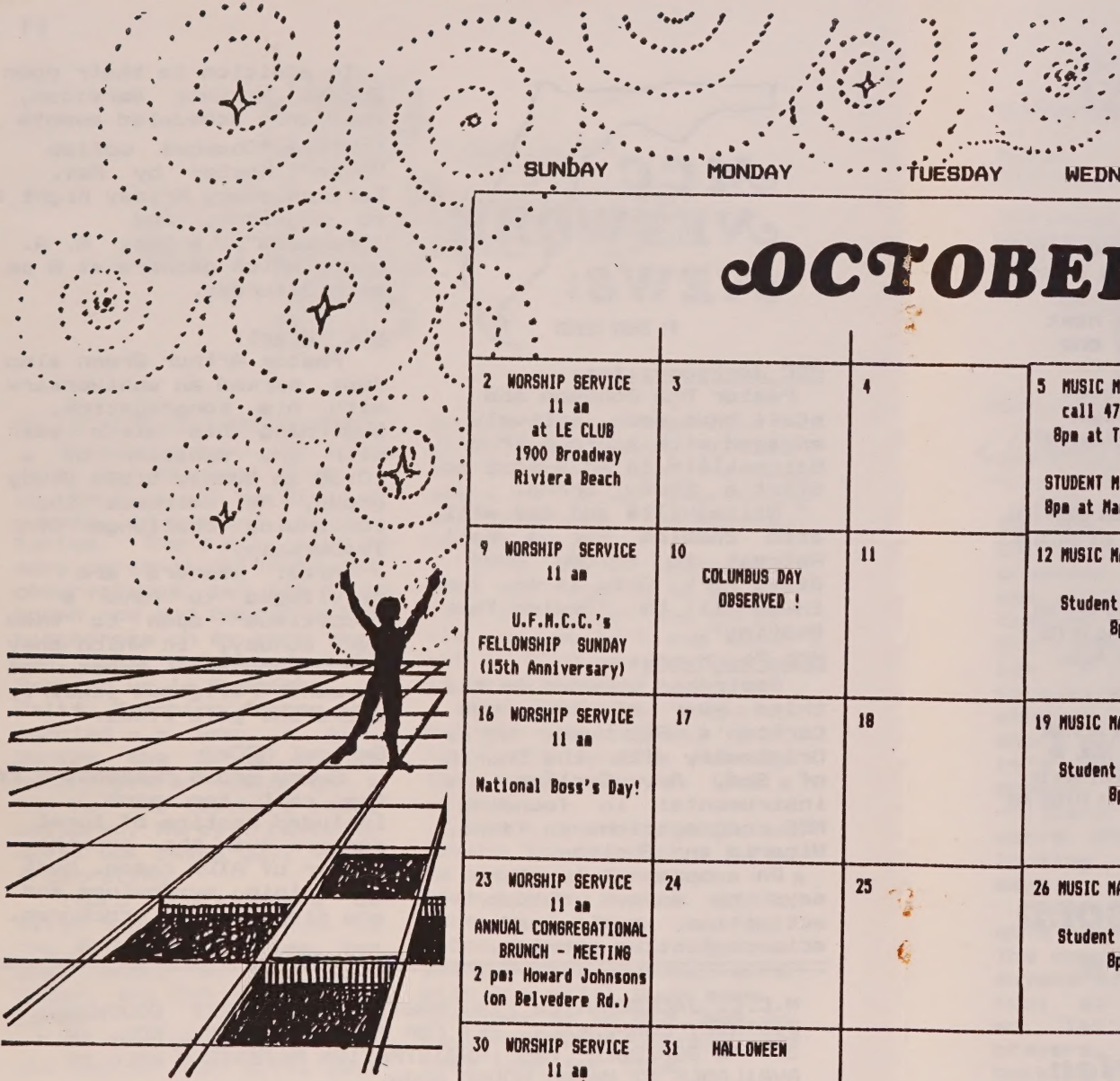
On a personal level he says he enjoys outdoor activities, music and science fiction stories.

M.C.C. JACKSONVILLE IS HOSTING THE NEXT SOUTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE, SET FOR FRI. THRU SUN., NOV. 18 - 20. A SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT MANGO HOUSE SOON.



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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

OCTOBER

1 SUMMER'S END PICNIC
1pm at Howard Park,
ALSO: meeting of
Differently-Abled Gays
-FELLOWSHIP NIGHT at
Mango House 8 pm

2 WORSHIP SERVICE
11 am
at LE CLUB
1900 Broadway
Riviera Beach

3

4

5 MUSIC MAKERS:
call 471-0932
8pm at Tony's House

STUDENT MINISTERS':
8pm at Mango House

6 DEEPER LIFE STUDY
8pm at Mango House

7 GAY RAP GROUP
OPEN TO ALL !
Call 655-9228
for directions

8 FELLOWSHIP NIGHT
8 pm
--EARLY HALLOWEEN
PARTY! 7pm B.Y.O.
315 Mango
Promenade

9 WORSHIP SERVICE
11 am

U.F.M.C.C.'s
FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY
(15th Anniversary)

10
COLUMBUS DAY
OBSERVED !

11

12 MUSIC MAKERS: 8pm

Student Ministers'
8pm

13 DEEPER LIFE STUDY

14 GAY RAP GROUP
OPEN TO ALL !

15 FELLOWSHIP NIGHT
and
NEWSLETTER WORKSHOP
8 pm
--National
"Sweetest Day"

16 WORSHIP SERVICE
11 am

National Boss's Day!

17

18

19 MUSIC MAKERS: 8pm'

Student Ministers'
8pm

20 DEEPER LIFE STUDY

21 GAY RAP GROUP
OPEN TO ALL !

22 DIFFERENTLY-ABLED
GAYS MEETING at
2 pm, Mango House

FELLOWSHIP NIGHT and
NEWSLETTER WORKSHOP

23 WORSHIP SERVICE
11 am
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL
BRUNCH - MEETING
2 pm: Howard Johnsons
(on Belvedere Rd.)

24

25

26 MUSIC MAKERS: 8pm

Student Ministers'
8pm

27 DEEPER LIFE STUDY

28 GAY RAP GROUP
OPEN TO ALL !

29 FELLOWSHIP NIGHT
and
NEWSLETTER WORKSHOP
8 pm

30 WORSHIP SERVICE
11 am

31 HALLOWEEN

ad rates

Full page \$60*

Half page \$30

Quarter page \$15

Business card \$10

If you want your ad to run for more than one issue, please supply two camera-ready copies of your ad (no cardboard, please).

*We would prefer that full-page ads be one-time-only runs.



PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY HEALTH ALTERNATIVES

Testing, Treatment
and Referral Information of
Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

215-232-8055

Metropolitan Community Church of Philadelphia
P.O. Box 8174
Philadelphia, PA 19101
Phone: 235-0769
Pastor: Rev Joseph H. Gilbert



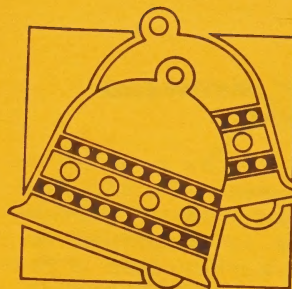
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Publication of the name of any person, business or organization shall not be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of that person, business or organization.



Metropolitan Community Church
Philadelphia

BELLRINGER

"Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land"

OCTOBER 1983

District conference Oct 21-22

The 1983 Fall District Conference of the Mid-Atlantic District will be hosted by Baltimore MCC on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 21 & 22. If you register by Oct. 12, the fee is \$35 for two days or \$25 for one day, which includes three meals and snacks each day. If you register after Oct. 12, there will be a \$10 additional charge for registration. Housing in the homes of members and friends will be provided for those who request it by Oct. 12. If you would like to go, see the pastor for registration forms.

The first business meeting (4:30 pm Fri.) covers church reports and old business, the second ((3:15 pm Sat.) covers new business. There will be Communion Service each Morning and Worship Service each eve.

The theme of the conference is "Is Race an Issue?"

Rev Joseph Gilbert installed as pastor

Starting with an Agape supper on Friday Sept. 16th, MCC Phila. had a weekend of celebration in honor of the installation of our new pastor Rev. Joseph Gilbert. Many guests were in Phila. for the occasion including members of MCC Harlem, MCC Hispana, New York, Princeton, Baltimore, Nova, and Washington DC.

On Saturday evening a special reception was held at Key West, a local gay bar.

The installation service itself took place at 1706 Fairmount Ave. on Sunday Sept. 18th at 11 am. Rev. Dolores Berry preached the homily ending with a solo performance of Amazing Grace; she also sang a special version of The Lords Prayer and installed Joseph as our new pastor. Reverend Berry spoke on the Gospel about

cont'd p 5

oneness

5th in a series of testimonials
by board members

I was raised in a conservative Roman Catholic environment and received the typical long-term religious education. I heard a lot of teaching about love--a real sincere love--being very important in determining whether or not we were in accord with God. There was a lot about us all being one--no matter where we were in the world, we were all one in the Body of Christ because we all shared the same true beliefs in the one true God. There were many other good things being taught; the only problem was that I believed them. I call this a problem because I later found out that not many of the brethren had a very inclusive or liberal interpretation of this "oneness". It seems that oneness self-destructs in the presence of "inappropriate" voting habits (not segregationist), music (rock-and-roll), or manner of dress (Anything other than a suit and tie--on a man, that is).

I had always had a strong attraction to theology, having considered at various times becoming a priest or a Franciscan monk, but at 23, when I found myself outside of the "one-ness" (be-

ing one of "those people" we were all warned about), Theology proved more of a stumbling block to my return to the church rather than a facilitator. Questions had arisen that my theology didn't answer, or answered contrary to what I saw in scripture and life. So I wandered in isolation/non-oneness for several years until I saw a small classified ad in the "Free Drummer" newspaper that someone had brought to work. Outwardly I paid no notice to it, but inwardly I memorized the address of a church that welcomed gay people. And so, some months later, I made the trek to Philadelphia to observe this oddity, this strange wonder. To put it briefly, I came, I saw, I was conquered.

I didn't hear any "this-is-the-only-true-church" and only an occasional "them-and-us" from wounds still smarting with freshness. I did hear a lot about loving other people, truly loving all people. But more importantly there was that long missed feeling of oneness again. They had drawn a circle that kept me out, but we had drawn the larger circle that included them in. And now that I'm here, I stay, not

cont'd p 7

oneness cont'd

because we're perfect, indeed our goal of reaching out to others we have stumbled and fallen--often repeatedly--but because the ideal is always there to redirect me, saying "This is where you should be going". And there is that great and marvelous thought that although someone may not be in the ideal, that person is not necessarily wrong, just at a different stage along the journey to completeness. And the oneness that we share in the church at large, the earthly body of Christ, is a symbol that completeness, or oneness

with the spirit of God in heaven is attainable. Is that not one of the main purposes of the organized church, to give people the strength and will to run the race through to the finish without giving up or surrendering to the defeatism of the "here and now". And so I stay. Because I need what I have found in this church and have not found anywhere else. I stay for the hope that I find that God can be reached, and touched, and known--even as we are known.

Pat Maguire

**Join Philly's Most Popular
Sunday Brunch**

1 PM til 5 PM

then

***TEA AT THE KEY*
DISCO AT SIX**

Key West
A Tropical Disco • Bar • Restaurant
207 S. Juniper St., Phila., PA (215) 545-1578

Proper ID required

6 "AIDS blasphemy" cont'd

groups.

Because we believe that MCC's all across the land must participate in educating elected officials about the crisis...about the need for research money, the legal issues and governmentally administered services (especially for Third World persons who are disproportionately hurt by this epidemic) MCC in Phila. will be involved in the AIDS Vigil in Washington DC on Oct 8th and will be involved locally in helping to raise funds for the staging of the Vigil.

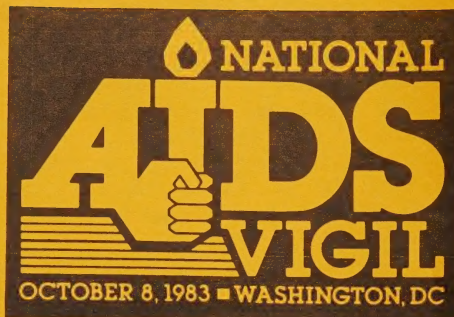
But MCC will also spend some time asking difficult but important questions about sexuality and social responsibility, discussing facts, fears, and feelings about responsible sexual relating during this health crisis. We invite your participation in all of this here at MCC.

Joseph



Helping with this month's Bellringer were: Sheila Petri (ed.) Rev. Joseph Gilbert, Pat Maguire, Alan Gellert, Mark Brace, and Ralph White.

Helping with last month's mailing were: Mark Brace, Ralph Schlosbon, Alan Gellert, Ed Byrne, Joseph Gilbert, and the Deacon's class.



Philadelphians will be marching at the National AIDS Vigil to remember those who have died from AIDS and to support those who are fighting for their lives...to recognize the struggle of persons with AIDS in fighting against all forms of discrimination based on their health status...to increase awareness about AIDS in the public and private sectors...to demonstrate to Congress and the President the deep national concern about this health crisis...to urge the creation of an independent federal advisory commission on AIDS to oversee research and funding...to demand increased federal funding for AIDS-related research and health care...and to press for a comprehensive patient's bill of rights and a federal statement on patient confidentiality! Join us!

3 pastor's corner "The AIDS Blasphemy"

Carl T. Rowan, in an important recent nationally syndicated column has pointed out that Jerry Falwell, the moral majority guy, has spread a lot of hatred in the name of religion...but that he now carries meanness to a new low as he goes about declaring that the terrible disease AIDS is a plague that God is using to punish homosexuals. Rowan's is a fine column and it warns of the political dangers of a Falwell stirring up anti-Gay pogroms.

But one fears that in the quiet of the night there are some people like the ones that Judge Failla (a New York out-front gay man) describes in a recent Newsweek article, "Some people are saying, 'Maybe we are wrong--maybe this is a punishment'".

But MCC is here to say that we know that it is God's will that NO person suffer alone and isolated.

MCC has committed itself to be vigilant, outspoken opponents of any theology that even suggests that any disease is God's divine earthly retribution against any individual or group, and is resolved to preach and teach and proclaim God's loving, healing power and desire for our

health and happiness.

Scripture says (Romans 8: 38-39); "For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, nor powers, neither height nor depth nor any other creature, will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus."

And that is our answer to the blasphemy of Falwell and other big-buck electronic evangelists. It is necessary that this blasphemy be answered...nailed for what it is: a lie issued in the name of God.

But we have to do more than that, and the whole UFMCC and its local churches are committed to making sure that continuing accessible education regarding AIDS and other health-related issues are provided in a sex-positive, gay-positive and wellness-positive manner to members and to the community in which we live.

We believe that it is important for us to prepare ourselves to provide active pastoral care for persons with AIDS and persons impacted with the AIDS crisis, and we commit ourselves to providing this care, on a one to one basis, and in the form of support

cont'd p 6



at 1706 Fairmount

- SUNDAYS 6:30 pm Bible Study
7:45 pm Evening Worship
Signed for the Hearing Impaired
- WEDNESDAYS 7:30 pm People who are dealing with the issue of Christian service gather to discuss it and to study from Henri J.M. Nouwen's book Creative Ministry. If you are asking some of the questions this raises, you are invited to join.
- FRIDAYS 7:30 pm Potluck Supper, with Table Communion and Hymnsing.
(1st & 3rd)
- THURSDAY 7:30 pm Board Meeting
Oct. 13
- SATURDAY 7:30 pm Evangelistic Rally with the Rev. Ms. Sam Edelman: "Can the Heterosexual be Cured?"
Oct. 15
- SUNDAY 2:00 pm Enquirer's Class
Oct. 2
- THURSDAY 7:30 pm Demonstration of Faith and Conscience. Art Museum.
Oct. 6
- SUNDAY 12:00 pm Super Sunday. Stop by our table to help out or to buy some of the goodies. Eakin's Oval near the Art Museum.
Oct. 9
- FRIDAY & SATURDAY District Conference, Baltimore, MD. (See article page 1)
Oct. 21 & 22
- SATURDAY 5:00 pm National AIDS Vigil (on the Mall) Washington, D.C.
Oct. 8

NOVEMBER

- FRIDAY & SATURDAY Flea Market (See story page 5)
Nov. 4 & 5
- SUNDAY 3:00 pm Congregational Meeting
Nov. 20



Installation cont'd

the shepherd who with his flock goes out to spread the word, heal the sick and drive out the demons. She urged all of us to become visible in the community and be disciples along with our shepherd Joseph.

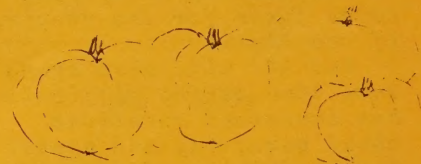
Action News (Channel 6) was present at the service, filming the installation, and interviewed Joseph and Dolores. A part of the Sunday 6:00 news was devoted to the Service showing the installation of the new pastor at the "predominantly homosexual Church on Fairmount Ave." It was a very positive, objective presentation of our mission in Philadelphia.

Evening service was a marvelous conclusion to an exciting weekend as Joseph lead the congregation in sharing about loving and living in the community. Everyone from Phila. MCC looks at this as a beginning of a new era of great expansion of our mission here in Phila. under the leadership of Joseph Gilbert. To Joseph and his lover Michael; Welcome, may God Bless your mission here.



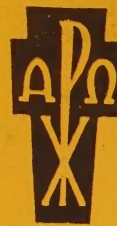
Flea market

WE NEED YOUR RUMMAGE: We are having a Rummage Sale on Friday And Saturday, Nov. 4th and 5th. We need your good household items and clean clothing. It's been a hot summer and will be a cold winter. Let your cast offs do double duty as they help MCC move its program forward and also provide useful clothing for people less fortunate than yourself. Call 235-0769 for pick-up.



Rev. Ms. Sam Edelman

"CAN THE
HETEROSEXUAL
BE CURED"



Evangelistic Rally
Saturday, October 15, 7:30 pm
1706 Fairmount Ave.

revival night

The nights of Oct. 15 & 16 were revival nights at MCC Phila. as the Rev. Ms. Sam Edelman raised the rafters with some old-fashioned down-home revivalist preaching. We're all very glad Rev. Edelman was able to come to preach at our church, and we hope she'll come back real soon.



C. Paul Joseph
PIANO TUNING • REPAIRS

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259-5783

Those with sharper ears may have noticed that our piano has been tuned. With that piano, we know it wasn't easy! We have Paul Joseph to thank, and we're grateful.

Unfortunately, after the piano has been so well tuned, we will be losing the piano. (Mayhap, by the time you read this.) If you know of anyone who would be willing to loan us a piano, please let someone at the church know.

Metropolitan Community Church of Philadelphia
P.O. Box 8174
Philadelphia, PA 19101
Phone: 2350769
Pastor: Rev. Joseph H. Gilbert

ad rates

Full Page \$60*
Half Page \$30
Quarter page \$15
Business card \$10

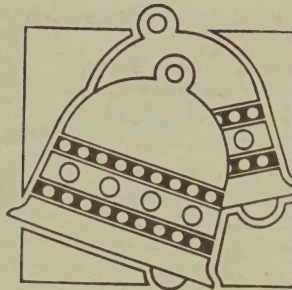
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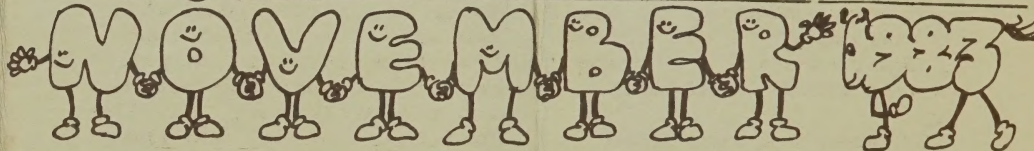
Helping with last month's mailing were: Ralph Schlosbon, Mark Brace, Ed Byrne and Alan Gellert, along with a host of Folders.



Metropolitan Community Church
Philadelphia

BELLRINGER

"Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land"



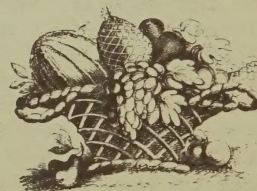
4th anniversary issue

rummage sale

At MCC Philadelphia's rummage sale, your trash could be someone else's treasure. That thing you're only too glad to get out of the house could be just what someone else has always wanted.

Like to donate clean, wearable clothing or household goods? Call 235-0769 and ask for Keith. We'll be happy to pick it up if you can't drop it by. (Please, if you know the size on the clothing, mark it.)

Like to look for bargains and priceless treasures? Come and shop at our rummage sale, Friday and Saturday, November 4th and 5th. You never know what you might find!



Thanksgiving Dinner

Join the MCC Philadelphia family in worship and thanksgiving at 1706 Fairmount Avenue on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24th. Rev. Joseph Gilbert will be leading a worship service at 2:00 pm and carving the turkey around 3:00 pm. Turkey will be provided; bring your favorite and/or traditional Thanksgiving dish to round out the meal.

worth staying awake for last in a series of testimonials by board members

I started coming to MCC to meet women. I don't know where I heard of it; probably at the Gay Coffee Hour at Temple University. I was living at home at the time and my parents didn't know I was gay, so I told them I was going to a Womans' group meeting, to avoid explaining why I was going to church when I'd already been to church that morning.

MCC wasn't a very good place to meet lesbians-- at least single ones-- then, but there were other reasons I kept on coming: being valued just for myself, and sermons worth staying awake for. Since the age of 7 or 8 I had trained myself to sleep through the sermon, but the sermons at MCC told me so many things I was thirsting to hear and know about that I wanted to stay awake. It wasn't an easy task, throwing off ten years of training, let me tell you! Another thing I appreciated was being valued for who I was and what I was doing. At the church that I attended with my parents, they were both very active and when I took part in anything there it was always, "Oh, you're so & so's daughter, aren't you?" At MCC they knew I was God's daughter and that was good enough for them.

And the people are marvelous here. I don't get along with everybody, and not everyone gets along with me, but when I come dragging in some Sundays feeling tired and alienated, and people ask after me and smile at me and care about me, I feel glad that I came. I feel glad that I've been involved in projects, not just the board and the Bellringer, but the Christmas bazaar, and the choir, and other things-- that have enabled me to meet and get to know some very nice people.

When I was first approached (I believe it was by Pat Maguire) to be on the Board of Directors, I was flattered. At that time all I was doing for the church was attending services and giving money (I had waited a long time to have the money to give and as soon as I had a full-time job I started tithing). I was flattered to be offered the opportunity and I went to a couple of board meetings before the election to see what boards do. I said I would run and I won and here I am, having already been re-elected once and up for re-election once again. *Four* and a half years on the Board of Directors (I was originally elected, as so many of us are, to fill

stewardship cent '22

done and does for us and others. We conceive stewardship to include responsible support of this local congregation, our District, our Fellowship (now 15 years old) and of their mission throughout the world, throughout the Lesbian and Gay community, throughout the larger community, so that by word and deed we may help persons ...all persons...to find a saving relation with God and with each other.

Angela



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Join Philly's Most Popular Sunday Brunch

1 PM til 5 PM

then

***TEA AT THE KEY*
DISCO AT SIX**

Key West
A Tropical Disco • Bar • Restaurant
207 S. Juniper St., Phila., PA (215) 545-1578

Proper ID required

stewardship

Use the word "stewardship" in the church and what do people think you mean? Raising and giving money for the local work and wider mission of the church? Stewardship means that to some people. Sharing time and ability, as well as money? It means that to others.

One lay person defines stewardship as, "everything I do with everything I own." A theologian says, "Stewardship is what I do after I have said: I believe."

The traditional view of stewardship held by protestants in the United States arose in the last century when our churches faced new needs to raise money to support the work of congregations and to engage in missions on the American frontier and overseas.

Many of those needs are quite similar to the ones we find in Metropolitan Community Churches in attempting to meet a host of needs in the Lesbian and Gay community...possibly one of the last frontiers of our society. In meeting those needs, we develop an understanding of stewardship which is rooted in the belief that God is the Creator of all that is. Human life and the resources

to sustain it are God's gifts to us. We are made trustees of these gifts, accountable to God and to each other for their use.

Responsible use of God's gifts includes the act of giving to the church for its ministry and mission a worthy portion of the time, money, and ability entrusted to us. We are moved to do this by gratitude to God and by the desire to answer God's love by loving our neighbors and serving their needs.

In Jesus, we most clearly see God's love in action. We believe that through Jesus' life, teachings, and continuing presence, our lives are changed. One result of this change is our desire and ability to use our resources through the church for enacting the gospel in word and deed. In this way, brothers and sisters in our own community, right here in Philadelphia, may experience the power of Jesus to change human life.

This church affirms the understanding of Christian stewardship which we have inherited. MCCers see stewardship as the responsible trusteeship of resources in response to what God has

conf 22 p 11

pastor's corner

tithing

One hears the statement that a goal of Metropolitan Community Church of Philadelphia is to become a tithing congregation. And a lot of us ask what a tithing congregation might be.

Let us take a look at what we mean by a tithing church.

MEMBERS OF A TITHING CHURCH:

- have studied the tithe as a directive from God to the people of the Old Testament.
- have recognized the tithe as a rich blessing to a multitude of Christians who have made it their practice.
- have opened their own hearts to what Christ the living Word has to say to them personally concerning this matter.
- have recognized proportionate giving as a New Testament mode of financial stewardship.
- are practicing percentage giving as a symbol of Christ's sovereignty and as a specific means of growing in grace.

By setting Tithing as a goal a group simply affirms the tithe to be a sort of "minimum standard" of giving by members, with the leadership pledging themselves to tithe, or work toward it, and urging the members to follow.

This goal is not a mandate or rule and it is not meant to send anyone on guilt trips. It simply recognizes the tithe as the biblical standard of giving and upholds this as a standard for all members and friends to work towards. What is the tithe? Basically, it has always been defined as a tenth, or 10%, of one's income. Tithe, tithes, or tithing, are mentioned 39 times in the Bible (32 in the Old Testament and 7 in the New Testament).

While the tithe has a clear biblical precedent, it raises some common questions amongst most modern Christians:

Is it before taxes or after? Christians do not have consensus on this matter, and it is generally left to be a matter of one's conscience. Those who do practice the "gross tithe" generally do so on the basis of discipline and dedication, and do not uphold it as necessary for everyone. In the era in which the Bible supported tithing, we did not have the plethora of taxes and deductions that most people have today. One's gross income and net income were probably nearly the same at that time. What the bible does teach clearly is that giving should be of

conf 22 p 9

the first fruits of one's labors. Translated into today's terms, it means a check for giving, whatever the amount, should be written before the other bills are paid, and not after. The concept of giving of the first fruits of one's work is mentioned in roughly twenty passages of scripture. Must all of one's giving go to the local church or can some go to other Christian ministries? Again, this is a matter of discretion or conscience. The majority of those who tithe probably give to some other Christian concerns. For those who give the entire tithe to a local church, it is again generally a matter of discipline and dedication and not as a recognized standard.

Christian stewardship leaders generally urge that those who wish to begin tithing, unless unusually able, begin with a lower percentage of net or gross income, and work towards the tithe over a defined period of time. Thus, one might say, "I will give 3 percent now, but work towards 10 percent by the end of 1985." The practice and discipline of regular giving is more important than the amount itself.

We call that PERCENTAGE

GIIVING and we think it can work this way:

- We covenant with God to give to God's causes a set percentage of all that we receive.
- We pay that percentage first from all that comes into our hands.
- By study of God's word and by daily life with the Risen Christ we keep our hearts open to increasing this percentage as God leads us on.

Does tithing bring "practical rewards"? While many emphasize that God brings prosperity and immediate rewards to those who tithe, this is not a real reason. If one enters into tithing for this reason, it will probably not happen. Most people who tithe feel that they do not go lacking in any physical necessities and that, over the long run, it brings greater financial stability.

Jesus never commanded tithing, though he repeatedly upheld the teachings of the Old Testament. His specific words on the matter were harsh ones directed toward the Pharisees and hypocrites who say it only as an external matter. This suggests it is not to be taken as a "rule" to be obeyed, but as a voluntary response of love and gratitude towards God.

cont'd p 5

out an unexpired term).

Why do I stay? Well, it's partly because I'm still being flattered. I'm not sure why I was asked to be on the board, but once on it I was and continue to be complimented on my incisiveness and my ability to cut through the obfuscation and get to the heart of the matter. Now that my term has expired yet again, a number of people have already asked me to run again. It's flattering, but flattery alone wouldn't keep me. I found a home of sorts in this church and in this fellowship, and I know that this home should be maintained so that those who seek a haven may not seek in vain.

How did I become the editor of the Bellringer? Well, the board was kicking around the idea of starting it up again, and one of the other members volunteered, and she always volunteered for everything, so I said I would do it, because I thought I could do a better job, and I had more time to devote to it. I've never looked back since. I like doing the Bellringer. There's something very enjoyable in doing something you do well. And I feel the Bellringer is important to the mission of this church. Although it's a lot of work to put out every month and it

costs money too, I believe that if just one person comes to one of our activities because of reading about it in the Bellringer, if just one person has been brought closer to God because of an essay in the Bellringer, then it has served its purpose for God and for this Church.

I believe in God. To me the existence of God is as the existence of gravity. But sometimes, Poor insecure soul that I am, I am not so sure that God believes in me. But it was in this Church, sitting quietly during communion, that God has been manifested to me. Once it was revealed to me that God had saved my life. Once Jesus gathered me up in His arms. And just last December, for one brief, amazing moment, I felt the Love of God shining on me like a ray of warmest sunlight.

Sitting down and writing about what this church means to me makes me realize just how much it does mean to me. I didn't come here at the beginning to fond God, or God's work to do, but I found both here, and it's worth it.

Sheila Petri



super sunday

Super Sunday for MCC Phila. was really super. At our booth near the Art Museum on Oct. 16, we sold 480 peices of cheese-cake and 943 fruit sticks. What a lot of Work! We raised \$527.04. Many thanks to all who worked so hard.

Christmas parties

Every year, starting with the 20th of December, members and friends of MCC host Christmas parties in their homes or at the church. This series of parties reaches its climax with the gala New Year's Eve party, a combined effort of MCC, Integrity, Dignity and Beth Ahavah.

Would you like to host a party? Get your name in early, or the date you prefer may already be taken! Rev. Joseph Gilbert will be compiling the schedule of parties so make sure you get your name in to him. We'd like to have the party schedule filled by the congregational meeting, because although you don't have to decide that soon, that is the date you must meet if your party is to be listed on the schedule in the Bellringer. The MCC Twelve Days of Christmas has been an MCC tradition ever since I don't know when. Everyone is welcome, and the fun and fellowship are contagious! Sign up now!

congregational meeting

Sunday, Nov. 20, at 3 pm, MCC Phila. will hold one of its two scheduled annual congregational meetings. There will be alot going on at this meeting, so be sure to show up if you at all possibly can. Several by-law changes will be considered (among them a change of the number of members on the board from 6 to 5). The budget for 1984 will be presented, and there will be three (or two, depending on whether the by-law change goes through) vacancies on the board of directors to fill.

PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY

HEALTH ALTERNATIVES

Testing, Treatment

and Referral Information of
Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

215-232-8055

tithing - the conference resolution

Resolution of the XI General Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 1983

RESOLVED: That the tithe is affirmed as the scriptural standard of giving for members of Metropolitan Community Churches; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we, the Lay Delegates, the Clerical Delegates and the Elders, do hereby pledge ourselves to tithe, or to work toward tithing as a minimum standard of giving and of our witness in the world and to the Church, and be it further

RESOLVED: That we do call all of the Church to join us in accepting the scripturally affirmed means of supporting the Church and its ministries as the minimum standard of Christian giving.

In affirming the tithe as a standard in the Church the General Conference pointed out that in Matthew 23: 23, Jesus said: "Alas for you, lawyers and Pharisees, hypocrites! You pay tithes of mint and cumin, but you have overlooked the weightier demands of the Law...justice, mercy and good faith. It is these that you should have practiced, without neglecting the others." These words, the conference said,

clearly affirm the tithe as an assumed and not arguable standard. What Jesus is saying about the tithe is this: Do it! Let's not discuss it and be proud of it. Just do it! Now let's get on with more important matters, which are justice, mercy and faith. On the basis of that affirmation, we can offer no less a standard for the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Nor, incidently, can M.C.C. Philadelphia.



pastor's corner com?o

One Christian recently wrote: "I can add to the testimony of others who tithe my own testimony, arising out of the experience of some 40 years. When offered in thanksgiving, tithing continues to be an affordable, affirming, and reassuring experience of and in the faith that is gracious and the Grace that is faithful."

John L.



at 1706 Fairmount Ave.

WEDNESDAYS 7:30 pm Staff meeting and class for Deacons
and Student Clergy

FRIDAYS 7:30 pm Love Feast, Agape (Pot Luck) Meal
(1st and 3rd Fridays)

SUNDAYS 6:30 pm Bible Study

6:30 pm Choir Practice

7:45 pm Evening Worship Service
(Signed for the Hearing Impaired)

FRIDAY & SATURDAY NOV. 4 & 5 Flea Market--Rummage Sale
(See story page 1)

TUESDAY NOV. 15 7:30 pm Board of Directors Meeting

SUNDAY NOV. 20 3:00 pm Congregational Meeting
(See story page 8)

elsewhere

SUNDAY NOV. 20 2-5:30 pm Parents of Gays Presentation
"We'll help you come out to your
Parents", 2111 Sansom, \$5 (\$3 student)
Hotline 461-8197

on December

FRIDAY & SATURDAY DEC 2 & 3 Madrigal Dinner
(See opposite page)







madrigal dinner

AND CHRISTMAS FAIR
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
7:30pm DECEMBER 2 & 3, '83
MOUNTEBANKS - FOOLS
TUMBLERS - JONGLEURS
& ALL KINDS OF MUSICK
\$7.50 FOR 1 - \$12.50 FOR 2
1706 FAIRMOUNT AVEN.
BY M.C.C. PHILADELPHIA
CALL 235-0769
dine with ELIZABETH I



menu de
noël
roast
beef &
fowl
wassail
plum
pudding



medieval
craft
plant
pastry
& gifts
fair
all day
sat'd'y
free

JULY - AUGUST ATTENDANCE REPORT

	SUN	Yr Ago	WED	Yr Ago		SUN	WED
Sep82	43.75	36	21.6	10.4	Sept 4	35	14
Oct82	38	40	14.75	12.5	Sept 11	40	12
Nov82	49.5	40.4	22	14.2	Sept 18	29	13
Dec82	38.75	44.5	14.4	12	Sept 25	23	17
Jan83	43	43.8	21.25	21.5	Totals	127	56
Feb83	34	34	12	13	Aver.	31.75	14
Mar83	31.25	42.25	14	12.4	INVITE A GUEST!!		
Apr83	35.25	41.5	15.25	12.2			
May83	32.4	37	18.5	18			
Jun83	38.25	46.5	17.6	14.4			
Jul83	45	42.5	18.75	21.5			
Aug83	38.75	34.6	21.75	15.25			

Illiano Membership as of Oct. 1, 1983 - 52

M.C.C. ILLIAMO
124 1/2 N 5th
Quincy, IL 62301

: NON-PROFIT ORG.:
: U.S. POSTAGE :
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: QUINCY, IL 62301:
: PERMIT No. 125 :

MCC Pensacola
P.O. Box 8087
Pensacola, FL 32505



The Lamplighter

Volume 9, Issue 10

Quincy, IL

November 1983

PASTOR'S POSITIVE PERSPECTIVE OF PROGRESSIVE PROGRESS
by Rev. Ron Anderson

I am super excited about all the positive things that are happening here at MCC! I have watched many changes, some distressing and some exhilarating. The majority of the distressing ones are behind us and I have watched the church grow into a positive and uplifting atmosphere. I'm so proud of all of you that have reached out by positive faith to make this church a complete Joy to attend and belong to.

I'm also very excited about the new activities that are scheduled, such as the Movie Night and the Arobic Exercise Class. I have noticed that we are becoming a very fun loving congregation and family. The attendance, at both Sunday and Wednesday evening services, is growing and I believe that one of the reasons is because

(cont. next page)

(cont. from front page)

we feel so uplifted after worshipping in a positive manner. I have also noticed that so many of you are inviting new people to share God's blessings. All in all, I look forward to many great blessings and happenings in the future.

I would like to talk about an old problem that I see being solved as time goes on. Many of you might not have recognized this healing as of yet, but it is there! I have noticed, during the past years that I have been here in Quincy, that negative gossip was on a rampage. It seemed to be out of control and you could hear something bad about anyone if you stuck around long enough. Well, it has dramatically diminished. I very seldom hear something negative being said by one person about another. Instead, I have been hearing many positive comments and compliments about other people. This doesn't mean that less people are doing less bad things. It does mean that everyone is looking for the positive in their lives and in others. I praise the Lord for this, because it makes all of our lives much happier.

I see a very bright future for MCC Illiano! I know that as other people find out about the joy, fun, and increased growth in abundant life, that they will want to get involved. This is a beautiful way to celebrate Thanksgiving.

THE LAMPLIGHTER is the monthly newsletter of
Metropolitan Community Church of Quincy

----- ILLIAMO -----

124 1/2 N 5th St, Quincy, IL 62301 Phone (217) 224-2800

Rev. Ron J. Anderson - Pastor

Michaelene Howard - Student Clergy

Robert Sronce & Charles Rueb - Deacons

**** SERVICE TIMES ****

Sunday Worship at 7:30 PM

Wednesday Service at 7:30 PM

**** ACTIVITIES ****

For other activities please see inside calendar.
*** Deadline: 3rd Sunday for month following.

time. scrupulously observe the privacy of the pastor on that day off. Call only in case of a real emergency--or to invite them fishing or golfing. (Quincy - cards or movie)

5.) Respect the privacy of the pastor's home. Whenever possible, phone during the day at the church office. And don't call to ask information that was printed in the Sunday bulletin!! If a problem can wait, give your pastor the chance to enjoy time alone.

6.) Pay your pastor a reasonable salary.

An unspoken rationalization of too many Christians is that since the pastor is called to the position by God, that they should serve no matter how little they are paid. Partly true, but that's no reason to impoverish them. Most clergy could make more money considering their education and experience.

7.) Care for your pastor's spouse or family.

Often the duties of the church take the pastor away from spouse. Relationship problems can occur in anyone's life, including the pastor's, and the church shouldn't interfere with their life any more than necessary to help preserve those private relationships. Be considerate of the spouse.

8.) Pray for your pastor.

It's harder to criticize someone if you've spent a lot of time praying for their ministry. If you believe prayer changes things, try it before you try anything else.

You can help shape your pastor's ministry. A pastor treated with respect and love will be tender to the needs of a congregation and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

----- M O V I E N I G H T ----- #
7:30 PM @ SOCIAL HALL #

FRIDAY NOV. 4 "Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" #
FRIDAY NOV. 18 "Makeing Love" #
FRIDAY DEC. 2 "Poltergeist" #

ONLY \$2.00 (donation) with free refreshments! #
#####

 KEEPING YOUR PASTOR HAPPY
 (Paraclete, MCC N. Hollywood, CA)

It is quite likely that happy pastors produce happy and growing congregations. The pastor deserves this as a fellow Christian, since we are called to bear each others burdens. Here are some practical ways to care for your pastor:

1.) Compliment their achievements.

Too often when a clergy person preaches an inspired sermon or provides some valuable service, we fail to show our appreciation. Many members only make comments when the pastor fails to come up to their expectations. Praise your pastors when they deserve it.

2.) Criticize carefully.

Pastors are people and make mistakes too. When they do they generally do not need to tell us about them. On rare occasions, however, it may be necessary to offer constructive criticism. This must be done in a loving spirit and in accordance with two Biblical directives, a.) Before criticizing spend some time in introspection and remove the beam from your own eye before the speck from the pastor's. b.) Never go to another member with a complaint against your pastor. Pastors appreciate honest criticism that hasn't made the rounds.

3.) Be a friend.

It can be difficult for those in the professional ministry to develop deep personal friendships because of moves from one location to another and the tendency of members to place them on a pedestal. Most pastors aren't too comfortable up there in that thin air and would prefer to have their feet on the ground with the rest of us. Let your pastor who carries the problems of the whole church know that you care about the problems that they may encounter and that you support them.

4.) Honor the pastor's day off.

Pastoring can sometimes be a 24 hour a day job. They accept that, but it shouldn't be that way all the time (cont. next page)

 FELLOWSHIP FLASHES:

CARBONDALE, IL. - Rev. Reid Christensen and John are doing great in Carbondale. They are holding Sunday services now with the attendance of 25 people their second Sunday. Officers have been appointed and they have a possible student clergy. Praise God! Keep praying for Carbondale, it is working!

PEORIA, IL. - Ms. Mike Howard continues to travel to the work in Peoria. They are doing great and they have a deacon candidate at this time. Praise God for our loving brothers and sisters in Peoria and continue to pray for that work as it continues to be blessed.

PORTLAND, OR. - MCC of Portland has voted in their new pastor, Rev. Delores Berry. She will be moving from the East Coast and resigning her position of District Co-ordinator. Rev. Jim Glycer is semi-retiring, but will still be involved in counseling, etc. God be with you Portland as you grow in Christ!

NEW FREEDOM TEAM - The New Freedom Evangelistic Team will be holding renewal services in Des Moines, Ia. Dec. 10th, 11th, & 12th. Ask Ron for details.

N.C.C. - The governing Board of the National Council of Churches of the USA is meeting Nov. 9-11, 1983 in Hartford, CT. At this meeting the Board will be voting on UFMCC's eligibility for membership in the N.C.C. Please keep this event in your prayers.

 * BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Rev. Ron Anderson, Donnie G., Kathy O., Marilyn R., Willie K., Bridget S., Lee W.
 * MINISTERIAL STAFF : Rev. Ron Anderson, Mike H., Robert S., Charles R.
 * SERVICES: Sunday @ 7:30pm & Wednesday @ 7:30pm
 * OFFICE HOURS: Mon. through Fri. 9 am to 3 pm
 (counseling by appointment)

FAT? - FLIMSY? - FLOPPY? - FLUFFY? - FALLING? - FLABBY?

A R O B I C E X E R C I S E G R O U P

EVERY MONDAY AT 7 O'CLOCK PM

come a few minutes early

bring a towel

wear loose clothing (exercise clothing if possible)

THE GROUP WILL LAST ONE HOUR

GROW SPIRITUALLY

by Russell H.

In the past year I have handled the bookstore's operations, I've asked for suggestions and received very little response, you may not realize this but the bookstore is there for YOUR pleasure! There is reading material to help you grow spiritually, records and tapes for your listening pleasure, jewelry and even clothes. But, some people think that the bookstore is only for the guest and friends. Wrong! We must all grow spiritually and with the reading material that we now have you can learn from experienced people such as Ros Rinker, Michael England, Richard Mickley, and our very own Rev. Ron Anderson!

How many of you know there is a library for your reading pleasure? There are many books on many topics, but no one has checked one out in over four months!! This is a free service that our church has to offer you, the congregation!!!!

If you feel that your life needs a boost, then come and experience the wonderful world of spiritual reading and the many other neat things in the bookstore!

*** *** *** *** *** *** ***

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Liz K.--11; Robert S.--18; Bill S.--19; Pastor Ron--27

(cont. from previous page)

sound of music from downstairs. The conviction of the Lord doesn't keep you from going to the bar, does it? So, why should the bar music keep you from coming to church? If you don't like the rest of the church because it is a mess, then why not try patience, why not come up and help organize and clean? Why not pray about your negative feelings and stop grumbling!!?

The move we've made reminds me of the Israelites who were going to the promise land and it took them forty years to get there. I'm not saying its going to take us forty years to accomplish the work that needs to be done here at the church. But, the Israelites grumbled and complained constantly, even though God always provided for them. Yet, nothing seemed to be enough for them. They blamed God, Moses their leader, and their environment. Is this what we've become? Only you can answer this question for yourself. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord with positive power. Where are you going with your life?

BUILDING FUND REPORT

Report ending Oct. 20, 1983

Cash pledges deposited	\$1,024.58
Outstanding bills	\$3,340.56
Payments due Nov. 1	\$ 930.00
Balance as of Nov. 1, 1983	\$ 94.58
Balance of outstanding bills	\$2,410.56

=====

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR PLEDGE ON TIME AND IF YOU HAVEN'T MADE A PLEDGE YET, THEN PLEASE DO. WE WANT 100% PARTICIPATION, NO MATTER HOW SMALL THE PLEDGE.

Remember! Don't treat God like Second Hand Rose. A positive worship is to do the best for God, not our left overs.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

by Mike H.

How many of us never pray unless we are in trouble? How many of us run away from responsibility? How many of us just give up if we can't have our way?

We have so much to be thankful for! Now, think about it!!!

1. Do you have good health?
2. Do you have a loving family?
3. Do you have a good relationship?
4. Have you had one blessing this week?
5. Do you have any talents?
6. Don't you have a church available to you?
7. Do you have a minister to counsel with?
8. Most of all, Jesus Christ loves you!
9. Jesus died for your sins!
10. Jesus gives you everlasting life!

If you have answered yes to just one of these statements, then what are you doing about it?

We need to thank Jesus, give Him all the glory and praise every single day. Keep that communication open to God. God likes to hear from you about the good things that has happened to you not just the bad.

Some of us would rather feel sorry for ourselves and blame God for everything that goes bad in our life and then put the blame on the church.

How many times has someone come up to you and said, "If so and so goes to that church, I'm not going!", "I don't want to go to church because they gossip too much!", "The sound of the music from downstairs bothers my worship?", and "The sanctuary may be done but the rest of the church looks like hell!"

I ask the people that have said these things, what have you done to change any of these things? Have you stopped spreading gossip yourself? (usually the people who complain about gossip are the gossipers themselves.) If you come here to worship God, ask God to tune that out, have faith that He will, and/or help us financially or with physical work to complete the steps to stop the (cont..next page)

ILLIAMO INFO

*** HAVE YOU MADE YOUR PLEDGE TO THE BUILDING FUND YET?

*** The church continues to be remodeled. Each week there is something new. Slowly but surely things are coming together. Please continue to support the work with your prayers and muscles. We can all be proud of our new church building!

*** There are some very exciting things happening within the next few months. There are Thanksgiving services, a special dinner, and everything that goes along with this holiday. Also, Christmas which is always a special time with special events happening at the church. The contests, dinners, gift exchange, march to the manger, and more. But, there are also other possibilities such as renewals with Rev. Bud Dunshee and Rev. Elder Freda Smith. Completion of the new building, Rev. Ron Anderson's decision of whether to remain as pastor, new works, and more happenings should make the next few months the most exciting time in the history of the church. Be sure and keep in touch through attendance of services, the Lamplighter, special announcements, and bulletin boards.

***** TREASURER'S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER *****

Beginning checkbook balance (Sept)		\$ 744.06
Income	\$2,430.45	
Expense	\$2,892.32	
Ending checkbook balance (Sept)		\$ 282.19
Sept wklly average	\$280.12	
Sept wklly budget	\$375.00	
Difference -	94.88	

Behind budget for month of September... (-) \$379.52

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7:30(open) Board Meeting	2 6:00-Choir 7:30-Service (Relationships)	3	4 7:30- Movie Night	5
6 6:30-Sunday School 7:30-Service	7 8:00-AA (open)	8	9 6:00-Choir 7:30Services (Relationships)	10	11	12
13 6:00-Membership Classes 6:30-Sunday School 7:30-Services	14 6:00-Choir 7:00-Arobic 8:00-AA (closed)	15 7:00-Staff Meeting (closed)	16 6:00-Choir 7:30-Services (Relationships)	17	18 7:30- Movie Night	19
20 Children Bake Sale 6:00-Member ship class 6:30-Sunday School 7:30-Service	21 6:00-Choir 7:00 Arobic 8:00-A.A. (Open)	22	23 8:30Special Thanksgiving Service	24 Carry in dinner all day Everyone Welcome	25	26
27 6:30 Sunday School 7:30 Service	28 6:00Choir 7:00 Arobic 8:00 A.A. (Closed)	29	30 6:00Choir 7:30 Service (Relationships)			

"GOD SO LOVED
THE WORLD....."



MCC OF THE QUAD CITIES
P.O. BOX 4095
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MCC Pensacola
P.O. Box 8087
Pensacola, FL 32505

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

- Nov 2nd - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
- Nov 4th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8 PM
- Nov 5th - Church Clean-up Brigade - Noon
Workshop: the AIDS Crisis - 7:30 PM
- Nov 6th - Sunday Worship Services - 11:50 AM
Membership Classes - 2 PM
- Nov 9th - November Staff Meeting - 6:30 PM
Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
- Nov 11th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8 PM
- Nov 12th - Rap Session: What is Gay A.A.? - 7:30 PM
- Nov 13th - Sunday Worship Services - 11:50 AM
Membership Classes - 2 PM
- Nov 16th - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
- Nov 18th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8 PM
- Nov 19th - November Board Meeting - 6:30 PM
Saturday Game Night - 7:30 PM
- Nov 20th - Sunday Worship Services - 11:50 AM
Membership Classes - 2 PM
- Nov 23rd - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
- Nov 24th - Thanksgiving Worship Service - 7:30 PM
- Nov 25th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8 PM
- Nov 26th - Sign Language Class I - 7:30 PM
- Nov 27th - Sunday Worship Services - 11:50 AM
Membership Classes - 2 PM
- Nov 30th - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
- Dec 2nd - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8 PM
- Dec 3rd - December Clean-Up Brigade - Noon
Saturday Game Night - 7:30 PM
- Dec 4th - Sunday Worship Services - 11:50 AM
Membership Classes - 2 PM
- Dec 7th - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
- Dec 9th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8 PM
- Dec 10th - Sign Language Class II - 7:30 PM
- Dec 11th - Sunday Worship Services - 11:50 AM
Membership Classes - 2 PM
- Dec 14th - December Staff Meeting - 6:30 PM
Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
- Dec 16th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8 PM
- Dec 17th - December Board Meeting - 6:30 PM
Saturday Game Night - 7:30 PM
- Dec 18th - Sunday Worship Services - 11:50 AM
Membership Classes - 2 PM
- Dec 21st - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
- Dec 23rd - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8 PM

THE QUAD CITIES TRINITY



The Newsletter of

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE QUAD CITIES
1618 West Third Street Davenport, Iowa

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 4095, Davenport, Iowa 52808

VOLUME II, ISSUE 1

NOVEMBER/MID-DECEMBER 1983

THE QUAD-CITIES TRINITY is the Newsletter of Metropolitan Community Church of the Quad Cities, a Mission affiliated with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE QUAD CITIES

1618 West Third Street

Davenport, Iowa

Telephone: 319-322-5055

Parsonage: 319-322-5513

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 4095, DAVENPORT, IOWA 52808

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Robert Carl Darst

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

11:50 AM

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

7:30 PM

SATURDAY RAPS/WORKSHOPS/POT LUCKS

7:30 PM

Opinions expressed in THE QUAD-CITIES TRINITY are not necessarily those of MCC-Quad Cities, its Interim Pastor, Interim Board of Directors, Staff or members. Publication of the name of any person, organization or business in articles or advertising is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of said person, organization or business.

Contributions, articles, poetry and advertising are always welcome! The deadline for Volume II, Issue 2 is December 10th, and the publication date for that issue is December 15th. We reserve the right to edit for purposes of inclusivity.

ADVERTISING RATES:

Two-page center spread.....	\$ 15.00
Full back page.....	\$ 10.00
Full inside page.....	\$ 8.00
Half inside page.....	\$ 5.00
Quarter inside page.....	\$ 3.00

R O D O D O P E N O A E D R O P E P
A T T E N D D A O R N P A R E A D R
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V P O R D R O V A T D D T N P V O A
E A N E N T P E T O E O N E E O R E
N D R R V A R D A R D V R A R T P D
T A O E N P T P O N D E R O T V O E
D R P R A P D O D T O R E N T R A P
D R O V E R T R N R E P A P O T A N
R D O D P O E T A P O D R V E O E T
A V E V D V A E O R T E T N E R N N
E A R R E E N R A D V D E E R N D R
R A E N E O E D T O R T R O N E T N
P V N E D D N E R E V E R N A N A O
O T N R N R T P V R D R A O E D E N
E R A E T O E V N D E P N E O V R E
O P T O N R D R A T E O D A N P O T

CRYPTOGRAMS

"WH YTAFB E YNEVD LVK KHNF, KV LVVB MVKVN ENOUA-
WVOWG ELB CHNV YNAORFEPVNG."

"DLHP TXB LFJH PXNLRPV ZHCN GBN VXX, NLHP CXO NLH
CROWN NRSH TXB GHAXSH FDFOH NLFN VXX RW HPXBVL."

DAVENPORT WORD SEARCH

Although there are hundreds of words which can be formed using the letters in DAVENPORT, the following are the words which can be found in Scripture, and can be found in the opposite puzzle either vertically, horizontally or diagonally,

ADDER (Pro.23:32)	NEVER (Hab.1:4)	RARE (Dan.2:11)
ADORN (Tit.2:10)	NOON (Amos 8:9)	RATE (Exo.16:4)
APART (Mat.14:13)	NOTE (Isa.30:8)	RAVEN (Gen.8:7)
APPEAR (Rom.7:13)	OPEN (Col.4:3)	REAPER
APPROVE	ORATOR (Isa.3:3)	(Amos 9:13)
(Psa.49:13)	ORDER (Tit.1:5)	REAR (Lev.26:11)
APRON (Acts 19:12)	OVEN (Hos.7:4)	REASON (Jon.2:2)
ARARAT (Jer.51:27)	OVER (Jos.1:2)	REED (Rev.11:1)
ATTEND (Est.4:5)	PANT (Amos 2:7)	RENDER
DARE (Rom.5:7)	PAPER (Isa.19:7)	(Job 33:26)
DEAD (Jude 12)	PARDON (Jer.5:7)	REPENT (Jer.18:8)
DEAR (Col.1:7)	PARENT (Luk.2:41)	REPORT (Rom.10:16)
DEED (Gen.44:15)	PARTNER	REPROVE (Hos.4:4)
DEEPER (Isa.33:19)	(Pro.29:24)	REVEREND
DEPART (Luke 2:29)	PATE (Psa.7:16)	(Psa.111:9)
DEVOTE (Lev.27:28)	PATTERN	ROAD (ISam.27:10)
DODO (Jgs.10:1)	(Num.8:4)	ROAR (Amos 1:2)
DOER (Pro.17:4)	PAVED (Exo.24:10)	RODE (Neh.2:12)
DONE (Neh.5:19)	PEEP (Isa.8:19)	ROOT (Mal.4:1)
DOOR (Luke 11:7)	PERVERT	ROTTEN (Jer.38:11)
NOTE (Jer.50:36)	(Gal.1:7)	TANNER (Acts 9:43)
DOVE (Eze.7:16)	PETER (Mat.26:69)	TARTAN (Isa.20:1)
DREAD (Gen.9:2)	POET (Acts 7:28)	TAVERN
DROP (Pro.3:20)	PONDER (Pro.5:6)	(Acts 28:15)
DROVE (John 2:15)	PORTER	TENDER (Gen.28:17)
EATEN (Jos.5:12)	(Mark 13:34)	TENON (Exo.26:17)
EATER (Nah.3:12)	POTENTATE	TENOR (Gen.43:7)
EDEN (Gen.2:8)	(I Tim.6:15)	TERROR (Rom.13:3)
ENDOR (Jgs.17:11)	POTTER (Lam.4:2)	TORN (Hos.6:1)
ENTER (Rev.22:14)	PREPARE	TRADED (Mat.25:16)
ENTREAT	(Joel 3:9)	TREAD (Dan.7:23)
(Acts 7:6)	PREVENT	TREE (Hab.3:17)
ERRAND (Gen.24:33)	(Amos 9:10)	TRODDEN
NEAR (Heb.10:22)	PROPER	(Jer.12:10)
NEED (Rom.16:2)	(Acts 1:19)	TROOP (Gen.30:11)

LOCAL TV STATION CAUSES GRIEF FOR ONE OF OUR SISTERS

On October 8, 1983, MCC of the Quad Cities held a candlelight Vigil Service for victims and the families and friends of victims of AIDS to coincide with the National March being held in Washington DC. Early that morning the church began receiving telephone calls from various television stations and newspapers in the Quad Cities area seeking permission to film the Vigil Service. The television stations were told that they were welcome to come only upon the provision that no faces of the congregation could be shown. This stipulation was agreed to over the phone.

When the camera crews arrived at the church prior to the Vigil Service, they were once again requested to not show the faces of anyone other than the Pastor. This assurance was given. The anticipated twenty or thirty people we had hoped to attend the special service was drastically affected by the presence of the media. Only four men and six women gathered for the Vigil which began with prayer and a sharing of the resolution concerning the AIDS crisis (see Page 16) which had been passed at the UFMCC General Conference in Toronto, Canada.

Following some reflections on the AIDS crisis from Pastor Darst, those gathered were preparing for a candlelight Communion when he had to stop the service to make certain the camera crews were not violating the request not to show any faces as they filmed, for one particular cameraperson appeared to be moving into a position that seemed threatening for those gathered in the two front rows. The cameraperson assured us that no faces were being filmed.

It was with great concern and distress that when we viewed the 10 PM newscast of WQAD-TV, the ABC affiliate in Moline, Illinois, we discovered they had not abided by our thrice repeated request. The face of one of the women was clearly held in profile long enough for her to be recognizable. Her name is Bonnie, and she had attended the service that evening with her spouse, Nancy, a member of our Interim Board of Directors, because she felt a moral duty to support the gay community, especially during the AIDS crisis.

It was not until Tuesday that Bonnie began receiv-

ing calls from neighbors who live in the same mobile home park in which she, Nancy and her son live. The calls were homophobically antagonistic at first but soon escalated into threats of violence. That afternoon she received a call from the principal of her son's grade school, condemning her lifestyle and saying that now he understood how her son was hyperactive because she is a homosexual. The school's social worker also made sarcastic and castigations about her ability to be a parent if she was going to live in such a degenerate home. All of this despite the fact that Bonnie and Nancy have been together for nine years in a loving and supportive relationship - struggling through the problems all couples face - and Bonnie's son is one of the sweetest and most loving children in the church.

Even Bonnie's Avon representative has refused to sell to her anymore, saying she would not deal with anyone involved in such a disgusting lifestyle. The owner of a ceramics shop has told her she is no longer welcome as a customer. An employee of the mobile home park has threatened her with veiled hints that have frightened her almost senseless.

WQAD-TV was immediately contacted and Paul Lewis, a reporter, chose to hear the complaint rather than put Pastor Darst in contact with anyone in management. Mr. Lewis later called back to say that he had just

for the efficient and reliable flow of accurate information regarding AIDS.

3) **POLITICAL ACTIVISM** - The UFMCC and its member churches will actively participate in educating elected officials on the local, regional and national levels regarding the AIDS crisis, including (but not limited to) monies for research, legal issues and availability of government administered services, especially for Third World persons who are disproportionately hurt by this epidemic.

4) **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY** - The UFMCC and its local churches will begin asking some difficult but important questions about sexuality and social responsibility that the AIDS crisis elicits. We especially urge our Gay brothers, clergy and lay, to spend time discussing the facts, the fears, the feelings and the options for responsible sexual relating during this health crisis. Further, we urge our whole fellowship to reject the heartless social "Pariah-ing" of persons with AIDS (or suspected of having AIDS) and of their friends and families.

Finally we also call for the formation of a Lesbian blood bank in the name of UFMCC for the use of persons with AIDS, which the Board of Elders will take steps to initiate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that implementation of this resolution shall be a priority issue at every level in the fellowship.

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Metropolitan Community Church of the Quad Cities

1618 West Third Street
Davenport, Iowa

319-322-5055
319-322-5513

Worship Services 11:50 AM
on Sundays.

Wednesday Bible Study at
7:30 PM.

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 4095
Davenport, Iowa 52808



GAY ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

OPEN DISCUSSION MEETINGS

Every Friday at 8 PM at MCC Building, 1618 West Third Street in Davenport.

Every Sunday at 8 PM at Riverside Retreat, 3047 Ninth Avenue in Rock Island.

Open for recovering alcoholics, Ala-Non members, recovering addicts, and all who feel alcohol abuse may be a problem in their lives.

AIDS ○ A RESOLUTION PASSED BY ○ THE MCC CHURCHES

A Resolution offered by the UFMCC Board of Elders and passed unanimously by General Conference XI.

BE IT RESOLVED that the UFMCC, recognizing the interrelated nature of wellness of mind, body and spirit and the historic responsibility of the Church of Jesus Christ to pastor, educate and militate (where necessary) shall, as a body, respond to the AIDS crisis in a variety of ways:

1) PASTORAL CARE AND LEADERSHIP - This may be the area of greatest need and our greatest gifts. The UFMCC and its clergy and its congregations shall prepare ourselves to provide active pastoral care for persons with AIDS, and persons impacted by the AIDS crisis (significant persons in the life of the person with AIDS, and the helping persons involved). This care will be on a one to one basis and in the form of support groups. We know that it is God's will that NO person suffer alone and isolated. Further, we commit ourselves to address the urgent spiritual issues arising from illness and death - including unresolved guilt, fear, self-hatred and internalized homophobia.

And further, we commit ourselves to be vigilant, outspoken opponents of any theology that even suggests that any disease is God's divine earthly retribution against any individual or group; and we resolve to preach, teach and proclaim God's loving, healing power and desire for our health and happiness.

To this end, we ask that Faith, Fellowship and Order Commission consider part of its agenda to help us address the theological issues involved; and that the Spiritual Life and Clergy Care Program and its Chaplains become proficient in pastoral care in the AIDS crisis as a resource for us all.

2) EDUCATION - The UFMCC and its local churches will provide continuing accessible education regarding AIDS and other health-related issues in a sex-positive, Gay-positive and wellness-positive manner to members of the Fellowship, and the communities in which we live.

To this end, we ask that Samaritan Education Ministries, in cooperation with the Fellowship Offices and publications, provide resources for such education. In addition, the Board of Elders will explore options

viewed a tape of the newscast and saying that no one could have possibly recognized her. He then said he would call back later when told that Bonnie had been recognized and that she was receiving harassment and threats. He has still not returned that call, nor has he returned the call Bonnie placed to him that same day.

A reporter from the Quad-City Times, Davenport's leading newspaper, interviewed Bonnie and the Wednesday edition featured a front page article entitled "TV GOOP TURNS GAY MOM'S LIFE UPSIDE DOWN" in which Cliff Brockman, WQAD-TV's assignment editor was quoted: "Quite frankly, it was a mix-up between the producer and photographer. It was a mistake. We regret she is undergoing harassment, but I'm not sure what we can do about it." The newspaper article also reported that she had received the derogatory calls from the school officials.

That afternoon she was contacted by CBS affiliate WHBF-TV of Rock Island, Illinois, which had also covered the Vigil Service with sensitivity and informative reporting, and Bonnie and Nancy agreed to be interviewed, back-lighted, for a segment exploring homophobia and the harassment of gays and Lesbians. This was aired by that station on their newscasts of Friday, October 13th.

It was not until six days after the initial telecast by WQAD-TV that an official returned a call to Pastor Darst. Cliff Brockman, the assignment editor who had been responsible for the newscast in absence of the vacationing news director, returned the call to say that he was sorry, and explained that it was an error of judgement on the part of the photographer who thought she would not be recognizable in the shot. Mr. Brockman added, "We regret she is having to go through this. It was not our intention that anybody should suffer from anything that was on our error." He later added, "It was a matter of judgment. It was obviously maybe not the best judgment if people are able to recognize her from that shot."

Mr. Brockman refused to give any assurances that more caution would be taken in the future not to violate someone's privacy or ignore such requests in filming when anonymity is asked for. He chose instead to only repeat that it had not been their intention to cause any difficulties. We can only add that "intention" does not absolve anyone from irres-

ponsibility and journalistic insensitivity. It is certainly not the intention of a hit-and-run driver to cause any difficulties when they accidentally kill someone, but they are still responsible and accountable for what damage they do. WQAD-TV continues to refuse to take responsibility for the nightmare their "error of judgment" has caused for two innocent women and an even more innocent child.

The telephone calls which Bonnie has continued to receive have grown more threatening. While the school officials have backed down and denied their earlier condemnations when questioned by the media, Bonnie and Nancy have continued to receive calls threatening violence from other residents of the mobile home park, and their son has been getting growing harassment at his school. The two women are frantic. They cannot afford to relocate their mobile home to another park, or to transfer their son to another school. Bonnie has been out of work for over a year and Nancy has only recently returned from a nearly nine-month long layoff due to a strike at her manufacturing job.

The lowest bid they have received to even move the mobile home is \$ 950, and that does not include the costs of moving their furniture and belongings, the cost of dismantling and setting up in a new park.

When WQAD-TV was contacted to see if they could possibly be of assistance in helping pay some of the expenses, we were contacted by their lawyers and told that the station does not feel they are responsible and would not consider such a request. Two of the local bars serving the gay community in the Quad Cities have agreed to hold benefits for Bonnie and Nancy but will not be able to do so until December. Our sisters are in dire need of immediate help to protect them from physical violence. We are asking for donations - generous donations - that we can assist them in relocating their mobile home into another school district. Any contributions which you can make are sorely needed and will be deeply appreciated. Please make contributions out to Bonnie Norton, and remit them care of MCC of the Quad Cities, P.O. Box 4095, Davenport, Iowa 52808. If you wish to make your contribution anonymously, your gift can be sent to MCC of the Quad Cities and we will see that she gets the assistance immediately. We thank you in the name of Christ Jesus, our Savior.

CONFLICTS ON THE HORIZONTAL & VERTICAL

(A CROSS IS A CROSS IS A CROSS ?)

There's a cross on our steeple
That signals all people:
"You will find joy within
And loving acceptance that remits every sin."

Or does that cross say:
"Stay away! Stay away!
If you will not subscribe
To all the beliefs that our members abide."

There's a cross in stained glass
Where sun's flourishes pass
To warm all now in prayer
Who gather in love to be comforted there.

Or is this cross frozen
In creeds that are chosen
By those who reserve the very best pews,
And test out all right in catechitical views.

There's a cross on the table
Where Christ says he is able
To forgive all who will say
"I will love all my neighbors on this holy day."

Or is ritual repeated
For those properly seated
Who say to all others as the celebrant pours:
"We're elect, 'cause our faith is better
than yours."

George S. Buse

Reprinted from "The Shepherd's Staff", newsletter of Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, Illinois

"I would rather have a minister who has converted to the faith after suffering the pains of sin. The great illusion of leadership is to think that we can be led out of the desert by someone who has never been there."

Henri Blair in 1863

DIARRHEA: When diarrhea lasts for more than a week, it is extremely advisable that one see a doctor.

DRY COUGH/SHORTNESS OF BREATH: A cough that does not produce any mucous discharge and shortness of breath during ordinary daily movements can be signs of pneumocystis, connected to AIDS.

ORAL THRUSH: A white material that develops inside the mouth, with the consistency of cottage cheese, and that can easily be scraped off, may be the yeast infection Candida albicans, a symptom of AIDS. If the infection spreads down the throat, it causes pain during swallowing.

SKIN LESIONS: The very visible lesions commonly referred to as KS or Kaposi's Sarcoma are varied; usually painless purplish-brown spots that can turn up anywhere on the body. AIDS victims also develop painful herpes ulcers, usually on the mouth or rectum.

NIGHT SWEATS: AIDS victims develop severe night sweats, which on their own are a classic TB symptom.

NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS: Problems with the nervous system have turned up in AIDS victims, including severe depressions, memory loss, seizures, and hallucinations.

All of these individual symptoms can be the result of some infection or disease; but, rather than assume that as the case, it is advisable to consult a doctor over any of these symptoms. A trip to a local public health clinic can make all the difference if you do not have a private doctor. However, the relationship of the symptom to the possibility of AIDS can only be determined if the doctor doing the diagnosis is considering AIDS when looking at your particular symptoms. Bring it up to the doctor by saying, "I have a physical disorder that is known to be a possible AIDS symptom." Silence leads to ignorance.

For additional information there are two national Watts line numbers.

The National Gay Task Force, 80 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1601, New York, New York 10011 operates the national AIDS/KS Hotline with information and referrals. The number is (800) 221-7044.

The National VD Hotline, (800) 227-8922, provides referrals to local treatment centers for sexually transmitted diseases (STD).

LETTERS OF PROTEST MAY BE SENT TO:

WQAD-TV

3003 Park 16th Street
Moline, Illinois 61265

ABC Television

1330 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10019

Federal Communications Commission
Broadcast Complaint Division
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

National Association of Broadcasters
1771 N Street NW
Washington, DC 20036

WHY ARE FIRETRUCKS RED?

Well, fire trucks have four wheels and eight men (or women as the case may be). Four plus eight equals twelve. There are twelve inches in a ruler. Queen Elizabeth is a ruler. And, the Queen Elizabeth is the largest ship in the seven seas. Seas have fish and fish have fins. Finns fought the Russians, and the Russians are 'red'. Fire trucks are always 'rushing'. Therefore, fire trucks are always red!

If you think this is poor reasoning, just listen to why people don't attend church!

Reprinted from the newsletter of MCC Springfield, MA

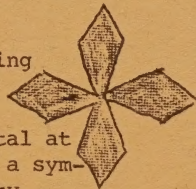
"So many people have told me that they are afraid to attend an MCC church service for fear that people will find out that they are gay. Yet they have no fear of being seen going to the gay bars or bookstores."

An Anonymous MCC Pastor

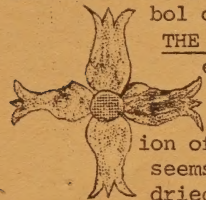
CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

PART 8 OF A SERIES

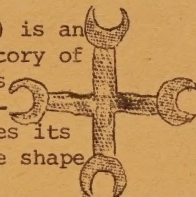
THE FUSILS CROSS (upper right), dating back to the days of the Crusades, was formed by welding or fusing together four equal parallelograms of armor metal at the narrowest points. It was used as a symbol of militant Christianity.



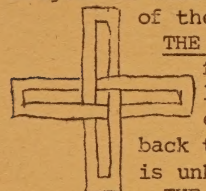
THE AVELLAN CROSS (upper left) is an ancient Spanish design with the cross bars made in the shape of blooming tulips. It was used as a symbol of resurrection of believers in Christ, since the tulip seems to resurrect itself each year from a dried bulb.



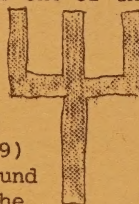
THE CROSS CROISSANTEE (center right) is an old Balkan design celebrating the victory of Christian forces over invading Moslems in the 13th Century. The popular pasty of France, the Croissant, also owes its origins to that victory, formed in the shape of the Moslam crescents.



THE INTERLACED CROSS (center left) is a fairly recent design in America (circa 1920) but it has been discovered etched on ancient German tombstones dating back to the 17th Century. It's symbolism is unknown.



THE FORKED or TINATTE CROSS is one of the oldest Christian symbols, found among the drawings in the catacombs of Rome. Rarely used today, it was regarded by early Christians as a symbol of the Trinity's united participation in the resurrection.



THE DOLPHIN TRINATTE (upper left, Page 9) is another version of the Forked Cross found in the Roman catacombs. It was used by the early Christians as the symbol of Faith. The Dolphin is portrayed in Christian art more frequently than any

AIDS

DO YOU KNOW ITS
SYMPTOMS?

There are ten basic AIDS symptoms that occur in combinations in potential AIDS cases. The individual symptoms themselves could, if only one occurs, be the result of a completely unrelated disease. It is when multiple symptoms occur that the patient should become concerned about the possibility of AIDS.

FEVER: A persistent fever of over 100 degrees that lasts for weeks without explanation may be an AIDS symptom.

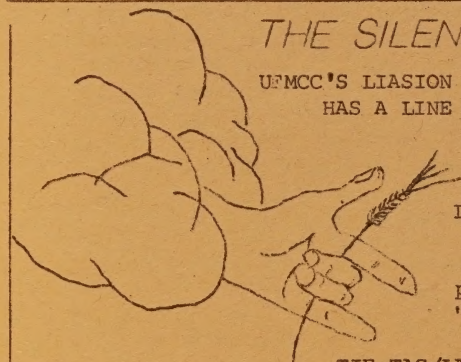
WEIGHT LOSS: Unexpected and fairly rapid weight loss of more than 10% of an individual's total body weight may be an AIDS symptom.

LYMPH-NODE SWELLING: Swelling of the lymph nodes in areas other than the groin (ears, neck, under the chin, collarbone, armpits, elbows) that persists and seems to occur in healthy bodies may be an AIDS symptom.

FATIGUE: It has been noted that AIDS victims develop persistent, severe fatigue.

THE SILENT HARVEST

UFMCC'S LIAISON FOR DEAF MINISTRIES
HAS A LINE OF JEWELRY FEATURING
THIS LOGO OF
SILENT HARVEST.



Designed by
Lisa Johnson, it
shows a hand in
sign language expressing the words
"I LOVE YOU".

TIE-TAC/LAPEL PINS
KEY RINGS
MONEY CLIPS
NECKLACES

All are available for a contribution of \$ 5.50 in
USA funds or \$ 6.75 in Canadian plus \$ 1.00 for postage and handling.

P. D. STERLING
LIAISON FOR DEAF MINISTRIES
P.O. Box 190511
Dallas, Texas 75219-0511

gaged in homosexual behavior after his cure. Not because they were cured, but because most died from bowel impaction, infection or blood poisoning. Those who didn't die collapsed into emotional basket cases after the trauma of his cure. The few who lived and remained sane became agnostics or atheists!

If nothing else, this "cure" illustrates only one of the bizarre, homophobic tortures inflicted on gay and Lesbian persons by traditional Christian Churches. (Editor's note: Other "cures" included burning at the stake, drowning, castration, and the pouring of hot lead into the body's orifices.)

So that you don't think I dreamed up this four-step cure during a drunken orgy or a drug-induced stupor, you can find the original references and documents detailing Saint Albert the Great's cure in a book called CHRISTIANITY, SOCIAL TOLERANCE AND HOMOSEXUALITY by John Boswell (University of Chicago Press, 1980) pp. 316-317. This book, by the way, won the prestigious 1981 American Book Awards for History.

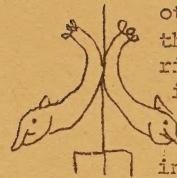
Gerald Wening

MCC'S DEACONS PANTRY

In order to help us provide food for members of the community who are in need, and thus fulfill the instructions of Christ to feed the lambs and the sheep, MCC of the Quad Cities is asking its members and its friends to help us stock our Deacons Pantry by bringing one or more of the following items to church each week:

Nov 6th.....Canned Pears or Jar Instant Coffee
Nov 13th.....Canned Tomato Soup or Jar Peanut Butter
Nov 20th.....Canned Peaches or Canned Spaghettios
Nov 27th.....Boxed Pizza Mix or Canned Fruit Juice
Dec 4th.....Jar of Pickles or Canned Chicken Soup
Dec 11th.....Canned Fruit Cocktail or Canned Tuna
Dec 18th.....Canned Chop Suey or Canned Chow Mein
Dec 25th...Canned Chili Con Carne or Small Canned Ham
Jan 1st.....Canned Salmon or Canned Chicken ala King
Jan 8th.....Canned Beans & Franks or Canned Ravioli

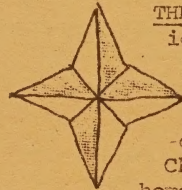
Of course any donations of non-perishable food items are always gratefully appreciated, as are any donations of cash to assist in buying perishable dairy products, meat and bread. May God bless you real, real good!



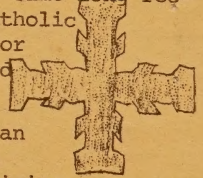
other fish. A popular European version is the heraldic Dolphin shown at the upper right. Generally, it has come to symbolize resurrection and salvation. Considered to be the strongest and swiftest of the fishes, it was often shown bearing the souls of the dead across the water

to the world beyond. Depicted with an anchor or a boat, it symbolized the Christian soul, or the church, being guided toward salvation by Christ.

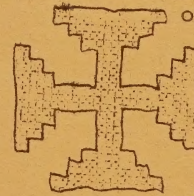
THE CROSS ETOILE or FOUR-POINTED STAR (Center Left) is one of the earliest Christian styles of symbolizing the Star of the Nativity which appeared to the Magi and guided them to the scene of Christ's nativity in Bethlehem.



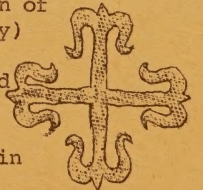
THE CROSS RAGULY (Center right) is an ancient Sicilian design which seems to incorporate the symbol of the arrows that have often been used as a symbol of St. Sebastian, at one time long recognized at the Roman Catholic Church's official Saint for homosexuals. He was martyred by being shot to death by arrows.



THE CROSS PERRONEE (lower left) is an ancient form of the Calvary Cross seen throughout Europe. It is formed by joining four three-tiered steps at the ends of each of the arms of the cross. According to tradition, the three steps stand for Faith, Hope and Charity. While most often used to symbolize the Crucifixion on Calvary, it has also been frequently used as a symbol of the Trinity.



THE CROSS FLEURY (Lower right) has been a popular version of the Fleur de lys (Lily) cross, and is seen most often in French, Swiss and Austrian tapestries and weavings. It has most often been used as a symbol that has been associated with the Virgin Mary, the mother of Christ.



Next issue we will share some of the plants and flowers often used as Christian symbols.

A Cure for Homosexuality?

Reprinted from the Newsletter of MCC Dayton, Ohio

Did you know that several traditional churches teach that homosexuality is an illness in need of cure?

Are you willing to listen to the four-step cure proposed by Saint Albert the Great?

Well, then, step right up, ladies and gentlemen. The cure is detailed in the writings of Saint Albert the Great. Now don't fret if you can't read the original Latin in his book, *DE ANIMALIBUS* 22, 2, 1, 10, edited by Hermann Stadler. The following is an explanation of his cure.

And don't get excited when you read the first step. It's certainly the most difficult of the four. And you'll have to be clever in carrying it out. But, if you want a cure, here's what Saint Albert says you've got to do.

First, you must find an animal that isn't too easy to find in southwestern Ohio. You've got to catch a hyena - a laughing hyena. That's right. A hyena. In Greek mythology, ancient Arabic literature, and early Christian writings, the hyena (called the ALZABO in ancient languages) was regarded as a bisexual animal, often engaging in same-sex activity.

Second, after you've caught your hyena, you may need some help with this second step. You must cut the hair off its neck and from under its tail. I've never personally tried to hold a hyena down while giving it a neck-and-tail haircut, but I suspect most hyenas would get a little frisky and grumpy at this point. They may bare their teeth, growl, and try to snap. So, be careful. As I say, you may need some help.

Third, comes the easy part. You can now let your hyena run loose. Take all the clippings you've cut from the hyena, mix the hair with pitch, and burn the entire mixture until it's reduced to a pile of fine ashes. If you've successfully completed steps one and two, this step should be as easy as falling off a log. But please, don't ask me where to buy pitch. I've never bought any. Perhaps you can buy it through a Sears or a J.C. Penney catalogue.

Fourth, and last, step. Now, this step might be a

bit messy. And this step might strike you as a wee bit kinky and it may cause you to wonder just where old Saint Albert is coming from. But I guess that all depends on your attitude and spirit of adventure. The fourth step, according to Saint Albert the Great, consists in thoroughly packing the ashes into, and rubbing the ashes over, the anus of the person afflicted with homosexuality. Albert taught that hyena hair had curative powers; he regarded the burned hair as a miracle medicine. (It also implies that Saint Albert equated homosexuality solely with the act of anal penetration.)

According to Saint Albert the Great, all you must do now is sit down (well, uh, perhaps it would be more comfortable if you remained standing) and wait for the cure to take effect. Be prepared, though: it may take a couple of days. But for goodness' sake, don't take a bath or shower in the meantime. The medicine must stay in place. This, of course, also means that for a couple of days all bowel movements are a no-no.

Quite often, Saint Albert's "patients" no longer en-



"Ever since they gave the axe to Saint Patrick and Saint Christopher, we have been the victims of a veneration gap!"



Metropolitan Community Church of Portland

N.E. 24th & Broadway • Portland, Oregon 97232

281-8868

October 5, 1983

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

You need to be aware of some important facts regarding MCC-Portland.

- FACT: We have called Rev. Delores Berry to be our new Senior Pastor.
- FACT: She lives with her mother in Virginia, which is about 3,000 miles from here.
- FACT: It will cost about \$3,000 to move her to Portland (or one dollar per mile).
- FACT: We don't have the money.
- FACT: This mailing is one of several ways we are attempting to raise the needed funds.
- FACT: We need your involvement, both in getting her here and in becoming involved in her ministry.

If you are a member of MCC-Portland, you made a commitment before God and the congregation to support this church with your tithe and offerings. If you have been backsliding in regards to this commitment, there is no better time than right now to reconfirm your pledge to support your church.

Sure, we know that some of you are thinking: "I only hear from the church when they need something." Well, when does God hear from you? (Hopefully, not just when you need something!)

If you are not a member but are receiving this mailing, you evidently have some interest in the ministry of this church. We hope that that interest is peaked enough to motivate you to contribute to this project which promises to change the entire Gay and Lesbian community of Portland for the good. Two years from now when people are talking about what a great city Portland has become since Rev. Berry arrived, you can boast that you invested in that miracle.

If these words have not moved you to send a contribution to bring Rev. Berry to Portland, then please take a few moments to ask God what you should do and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in your giving.

God Bless,

Ron Powell, Deacon
Finance Committee

mcc-fc/lpt



the CHALICE

UPDATE

BY GLORIA JACKSON

On September 11, the congregation of MCC-Portland voted to call the Rev. Delores Berry from Tidewater, VA. Rev. Berry has accepted Portland's call, even though she must resign her position as District Coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic District.

Rev. Berry was ordained at the UFMCC General Conference in Toronto and was a candidate for the Board of Elders. She is a member of the Government Structures and Systems Commission (GSS), and the team working to gain admittance for the UFMCC into the National Council of Churches (of Christ).

Delores began attending MCC Baltimore in 1975. During her stay in Baltimore, she started church outreach to Third World people, and was co-founder of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. She served on the Board of Directors for MCC-Baltimore, and later she was Assistant Pastor for five years, becoming the first woman to become clergy in the Mid-Atlantic District.

In 1981, Delores was called to pastor two churches in Tidewater and Norfolk, VA. She reconciled the two churches that had split, aiding the growth from six to seventy-five members. MCC New Life of Tidewater is being chartered later this month.

On October 1, friends and family of MCC-Portland held a special appreciation dinner for the Rev. Jim Glycer to recognize his many contributions during his more than full-time service to MCC-P over the past two years.

October 1 also marks the date Pastor Jim is going on "part-time retirement". While he is limiting his church-related hours to twenty hours per week and two Sundays per month, Pastor Jim will still be available for limited counseling, as well as continuing to teach classes and fulfill other assignments. UFMCC will also be drawing on Pastor Jim's many skills and experiences to develop Fellowship-wide programs.

Through Pastor Jim's leadership, MCC-Portland has grown large enough to once again need and support the services of both a Senior Pastor and an Assistant Pastor. We are truly blessed that a person of Jim's caliber is willing to continue on staff.

M.C.C. Night at Jonah's Seafood Restaurant

Saturday October 15th 4-11 p.m.

Join your friends for a great dinner
and complimentary champagne.

Jack and Jim of Jonah's are contributing a portion
of sales toward the moving expenses of Metropolitan
Community Church's new pastor.

A Great Dollar Auction
at Dahl & Penne's

Oct. 22 Noon - 6 p.m.

Antiques, Leather,
Furniture, Two-Fers,
and more...

A benefit for moving
expenses for Metropolitan
Community Church's
new pastor.

Join Your Friends
For Dinner

Saturday Oct. 15 4-11 p.m.

M.C.C. Night at



The Original Jonah's Seafood Restaurant

7425 S.W. Barbur
245-2188 Reservations Suggested
Complimentary champagne
or soft drink with this coupon.



You are cordially
invited to attend the

Installation of our Pastor

Rev. William H. Smith

in the sanctuary of
The First Presbyterian Church
Seventh and Capitol
Springfield, Illinois



Saturday, November 19, 1983
Eight o'clock in the evening

Rev. Brenda Cisneros-Hunt, officiating

Reception to follow at
Qwin House
812 South Fourth Street
Springfield, Illinois

Metropolitan Community Church



VALLEY INTERFAITH COUNCIL

At our second Lenten Agape Dinner, Rev. Riess Potterveld, pastor of Northridge Congregational Church and President of Valley Interfaith Council presented our church with the broad scope of the activities of the Council, some of which we have participated in and some that were new to many. Besides being an inter-religious forum that is concerned about moral issues that cross the lines between faiths, VIC is also a sponsoring agency for many programs for the aging in the San Fernando Valley. Vic writes the programs and receives grants, usually under the federal "Older Americans Act", to sponsor activities and programs at four Multipurpose Centers in the Valley (Van Nuys, Reseda, Pacoima, and North Hollywood). VIC also sponsors ten nutrition sites for seniors, the Meals to the Homebound, and Project Share which will provide limited transportation to the elderly who are unable to use public transportation.

Last year at the Van Nuys Center 21,552 low cost meals were served to seniors, 1,380 hours of personal counseling were done, 20 to 30 employment placements per month were made, 30 to 40 legal assistances per month were provided and 20 to 30 seniors were found housing per month. Education is also encouraged at the center and 11,682 attended classes ranging from English to oil painting to psychology. 178 volunteers put in 26,400 hours to keep this center going in 1981. A mini-market served 80 to 90 persons with low cost vegetables and fruit a week. 6,205 van rides were given to those who could ill afford a taxi.

This busy place often runs out of space for all the activity that it generates. The director, a psychology counselor, and a social worker form the core staff along with office help. A few seniors are employed at close to minimum wage for 20 hours per week to staff the phones and keep up paperwork. All the staff are paid under the various

titles of federal funding which are in danger of being cut. Directing this immense effort at the center is an enormous task, even with the large amount of work provided by the senior volunteers.

The facts and figures may sound impressive for the Van Nuys Center but the reality is that human needs are being met here by caring people. Those who have the crippling Parkinson's disease meet here to learn ways to cope physically and emotionally with their physical impairment. Those who have lost their spouses after many years find out in group counseling sessions that others feel the same pain and that sharing aids in healing. Meals to the Homebound provides a hot noon meal to those who are barely able to keep out of nursing homes (which is more expensive to both the and often to government). Spanish speaking seniors anxiously arrive early for the classes that teach them English and how to cope in a different culture. And the stories could go on and on.

Since the economy is placing a pinch on many who formerly supported VIC (especially businesses), the VIC budget is in dire straits. Some of the programs that have been cut into are facing the cancellation of services (Meals to the Homebound faces an \$11,000 shortage to keep up the present amount of service for the next fiscal year.) VIC is supported mostly from donations and by memberships. A form is provided below for anyone interested in membership (you will receive a monthly newsletter and notices of activities). Mail to: VALLEY INTERFAITH COUNCIL, 6728 VAN NUYS BLVD., VAN NUYS, CA. 91405

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

ENCLOSED: _____ \$15 YEARS MEMBERSHIP
_____ DONATION
_____ MONTHLY PLEDGE

(VIC MAY BE DESIGNATED TO RECEIVE YOUR "UNITED WAY" PLEDGES AT YOUR WORK ALSO!)

BETRAYAL

"The Kingdom of God is not the same as America, and our nation is subject to the judgment of God as much as any other nation.", Billy Graham

"And then many will fall away, and betray one another, and hate one another." --Jesus in Matthew 24:10.

Betrays seem to be a common denominator in human history. Even Jesus was betrayed by a friend and disciple--Judas. Jesus said that in the last days many from within the church would fall away and betray faithful followers of the Christ, deliver them to government authorities for imprisonment, torture, and death. Many from within the church would do to others what Judas had done to Jesus.

In Nazi Germany and in times of persecution under communist governments there has occasionally been that sort of betrayal. But giving Christians over to be killed may seem very remote from us in American churches. IT IS NOT. Tens of millions of American church people--perhaps to some extent nearly all of us--take part in a terrible fulfillment of this prophecy.

Many from their TV pulpits have been making statements about the poor, about gay and lesbians, and about Jews that resemble closely a betrayal. Often those whom they denounce include fellow Christians. Many of us who are on the receiving end of these misconceptions, lies, and misunderstandings are not exempt from occasionally returning the same to those with whom we find strong disagreement. But there are others in other places whom are betrayed.

EL SALVADOR

A brutal dictatorship is terrorizing the entire population and persecuting the Christian church. During 1980 more than 9,000 persons were killed by forces under that government according to the legal aid department of the Archdiocese of San Salvador. Roman Catholic

BO

BOARD NOTE (MARCH 8th MEETING)

The Board granted the Red Cross use of our building in case of a disaster such as earthquake... The advisability of the lease of a car for church use was discussed... The incorporation papers prepared by attorney Al Gordon were presented... DUO committee reported funds presented to: Lambda Resource Center for the Blind, Simon Wiesenthal Center, Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, UFMCC Prison Ministry, Great American Yankee Freedom Band, and Georgetown U. Gay Legal Defense Fund, the latter being given by vote of the board... Curt Haskell's resignation as Social Chair was accepted with regret. Tom Puckett was approved as new Chair... Rev. Martin will be presented for investiture as pastor at the 11:00 AM service on Sunday May 2, 1982... Position of "Lay Assistant to the Pastor" will be recommended and Bob Olson will be appointed to this position with congregational approval at the June Meeting... Ruby Grammer will be considered for Student Clergy at the April meeting... Rev. Martin presented guidelines for Holy Unions as follows: that Unions be considered only for members of the church; that Unions not be considered for couples who have not lived together for at least one year; that counseling as necessary be agreed to by the couples; that final discretion be given to the pastor as to performing a Holy Union.

* * * * *

EXCEL

Like to find firmer footing for your faith? Looking for that closer walk with God? All this while enjoying fellowship, fun, and the forest? Watch for info on the June Excel exercise in the next Paraclete. Also attend their fund raiser dance at MCC/LA on Sat. April 3, 8:00 PM \$3.00 donation.



PARKING: Recently a sprinkler system was installed along the planted area which parallels our driveway and the DWP easement. In addition, a number of plants were replaced that had been damaged or destroyed by cars parking carelessly. Please be careful when parking along the planted area. This will avoid any additional damage to the plants (Which were generously donated) or damage to the new sprinkler system.

We now have a parking space designated for the physically impaired. It is marked by the traditional blue sign with a wheelchair in a circle. Please respect the purpose this space is intended for (because if Mike finds you parked there illegally you may find yourself with a slight physical impairment!!)



SUNRISE SERVICE

Celebrate the Resurrection this year at the Griffith Park Observatory. The third annual Easter Sunrise Service will be held there at 7:00 A.M. on Sunday, April 11. The Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson will present the Easter message. Representatives from most of the MCC's in the area will be participating.

This year's offering will be divided between the Valley Interfaith Council, The ACLU Gay Rights Chapter, and Parents and Friends of Gays. The Valley Interfaith Council offering is designated specifically toward the repair and maintenance of vans used for the transporting of senior and disabled citizens, and the Meals on Wheels program. The ACLU Gay Rights Chapter portion is designated for work involving the Family Protection Act.

We have been advised that those attending will not be charged the usual admission to the park that morning, if you advise them at the gate that you are there for the Sunrise Service. Be sure to bring a blanket or folding chair for seating. (You might consider adding the deferred entrance fee to the offering plate.)

nd Protestant: observers report that most of the victims were and are Christians. If there had been the same percentage of political murders in the United States in one year, 500,000 people would have died.

Through tens of millions of dollars in military and economic aid, through training the "security" forces and even supplying weapons, the U.S. government has been sponsoring this terrorist regime and its persecution of Christians.

THE SOVIET UNION

The tens of millions of Christians in the Soviet Union experience much repression and considerable persecution. But consider: Tens of thousands of U.S. nuclear war-heads are aimed also toward those followers of Christ in the Soviet Union. If the church of Jesus Christ ceases to exist in that country, this will not come because of communist pressures but because of American nuclear weaponry. If you have been saying yes to nuclear weapons, you may be betraying Russian and other East European Christians into the power of persons who could kill them all.

Pondering this view of betrayal may cause one some discomfort and denial. Prayerful consideration of our acquiescence to power, power that can betray fellow Christians to their physical deaths, should be entertained during this season when our Lord was betrayed. There is no easy answer here but the question should not be avoided. (some of this material was taken from material printed by Baltimore Clergy and Laity Concerned and by the Brethren Peace Fellowship).

BGS

* * * * *

VISIT OUR EXPANDED BOOK STORE SOON

A number of new publications have been purchased by our book store, including, "Embodiment", "But Lord, They're Gay", "Sunday's Woman", and various versions of the Bible, including the Revised Standard Version that is recommended for our new Christian education series that will begin soon. A new assortment of jewelry is also available. If you have suggestions as to future publications or purchases that the bookstore should make you should tell Bonnie, who is now Bookstore Proprietor.

I

INTRODUCTION TO THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

WHAT: A FIVE WEEK CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EXPERIENCE;
OPEN TO EVERYONE, REQUIRED FOR NEW MEMBERS
AND DIACONATE TRAINEES.

WHEN: TUESDAY EVENINGS, APRIL 20 -- MAY 18, 1982
7:30-9:30 PM

- 4/20 "YOU TELL ME YOURS, I'LL TELL YOU MINE: OUR STORIES"
- 4/27 "MCC AND THE DEBATE ABOUT GOD: THEOLOGY"
- 5/4 "BEING PEOPLE OF THE BOOK: THE BIBLE"
- 5/11 "LEARNING TO LOVE LILLITH: INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY"
- 5/18 "PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY: MEMBERSHIP"

(IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE A MEETING AT 10 AM, SUNDAY
MAY 30 FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO BECOME MEMBERS ON SUNDAY
JUNE 6)

MCC

IN THE VALLEY: WHO ARE WE?

WHAT: A FOUR WEEK, INTENSIVE BIBLE STUDY ON OUR
NATURE AND MISSION AS A CHURCH TODAY

WHEN: TUESDAY EVENINGS, MAY 25-JUNE 15, 1982
7:30 - 9:30 PM

EXPLORING BIBLICAL TEACHINGS ON:

REFORM/ RENEWAL/ REVELATION/ "THE CHURCH"/
DISCIPLESHIP/ THE DOMAIN OF GOD/ THE RADICAL
TEACHINGS OF JESUS/ COMMUNITY/ MISSION/
CHARISMATA (THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT)/
MINISTRY (LAY & CLERGY)/SERVANTHOOD/
PROCLAMATION/ ADVOCACY/ PROPHECY, ETC.

(PARTICIPATION WILL REQUIRE A BIBLE. FOR BOTH CLARITY
AND ACCURACY THE REVISED STANDARD VERSION IS RECOMMENDED.
THE RSV IS ON SALE AT THE MCC/VALLEY BOOKSTORE. EACH
PARTICIPANT WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED WITH A PRINTED STUDY
GUIDE.)

"WE HAVE NOT BEEN TO CHURCH...WE ARE THE CHURCH"

always on the horizon, perhaps the sad situation in the
world is paving the way for a church united in facing
the power of evil and saying, "Enough".

An example of a church awakening is the church in
Europe, long ago seeming to have the chill of death upon
it. The varying groups of Christians in many nations
there are facing up to the responsibility of saying no
to the superpowers on the issue of nuclear weapons
being placed on their soil and thus marking Europe as
a nuclear battlefield in the future. Even the church
in East Germany has spoken up against the nuclear
threat, much to the consternation of the government.
The churches of Latin America are awakening to the
plight of the poor and aligning with them in their
struggle. And some of the church in North America is
awakening to their responsibility to overcome the power
of evil, both by supporting talks to freeze the prod-
uction of nuclear weapons and by providing churches as
sanctuaries for civilians in danger of being deported
to El Salvador where many face death.

Each Christian faces times when they feel that God
has left them, when they have been abandoned to the
powers of darkness. The message of the Resurrection is
that when all seems the darkest, that the Light is about
to descend, that the message of Hope Eternal is still
our Rock.



BUILDING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The church is in need of a large
freezer, preferably a stand-up model. If you have one
you would like to donate or know someone who does know
where we could obtain one at a very reasonable cost,
please contact Jack at the church office.

The exterior of the building is in need of maintain-
ance and painting. Rather than spend a large amount to
hire a contractor, we feel that a volunteer effort is
needed. If you know someone knowledgeable with both
preparation and painting that could lead a volunteer
group, contact Jack or Mike Provost. (A request for
the actual volunteers to do the work will come later!
Be ready to volunteer!)

HOPE AFTER ABANDONMENT

The truths presented by the Crucifixion and the Resurrection are many. One that seems especially appropriate during troubled times is that of Hope that follows a feeling of Abandonment. Certainly the followers of Jesus the Christ suffered a sense of abandonment as their Lord was taken from them without his resistance. As Jesus was calling out his last earthly words,

even our Redeemer suffered a sense of abandonment and cried, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

These words are also found in the passages of Psalm 22 and it might raise a question worth investigation as to why the comforting words of Psalm 23 were not quoted instead. But the apparant failure of Christ as King, the apparant abandonment of the Church by Jesus and the forsaken feeling of the Crucified One were all only the precursor of the presentation of Hope to humanity, the Hope of the Resurrection, of Life Eternal, of the Coming Kingdom, of Light after darkness.

Naysayers today claim that God has abandoned the Church. They point to the fact that many, usually the more conservative churches, are aligning with the powerful in society who are more concerned with military might to preserve their standard of materialism than they are with proclaiming Christ to the poor and justice to the oppressed. Others are concerned that the "main-line" church is only concerned with membership, buildings and social concerns while failing to provide for spiritual needs and growth. The failures of the church, at a time when economic distress overcomes both individuals and communities, when the spectre of nuclear annihilation is ever present and when murder in many nations seems epidemic, may be that place where God does seem to have abandoned humanity. However, since Hope is

WAPCC

SUNDAY

Worship Services at 9 and 11 A.M.
(On Easter Sunday there will be only one service, at 11 A.M. due to the sunrise celebration at Griffith Park)

DeColores MCC, Canoga Park has Bible Study at 4, Worship at 5, and a Rap (Sunday Nite Live) at 7:30 PM at 7118 Alabama

MONDAY

AT (Alcoholics Together) Mens's Stag at 8:30 PM

TUESDAY

Personal Growth Discussion Group at 7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Sign Language Class at 7:30 PM
Choir Practice at 7:30 PM

+++++

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY

"Passover Seder" 7:30 PM
\$3.00 Donation

GOOD FRIDAY

"SEE THE LAMB OF GOD!" 12:00 Noon
"Tennebrae Communion" 7:30 PM

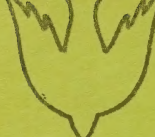
EASTER SUNDAY

"Sunrise Serve" 7:00 AM
Griffith Park Observatory
Reverend Elder Nancy Wilson, Sermon

"Feast of the Resurrection" 11:00 AM
MCC in the Valley

Picnic-N. Hollywood Park 1:00 PM

"MONTE CARLO NIGHT!" April 23, 8:30 PM
\$3.00 at the door includes \$2.00 "chance money"
Sponsored by Christopher St. West Float Committee
BLACKJACK...ROULETTE...BINGO...etc.!!!



VALEY PARACLETE

APRIL 1982



CHRIST HAS DIED.
CHRIST IS RISEN!
CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN!

Valley Paraclete
5730 Cahuenga Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA 91601

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Permit No. 345



MCC BOSTON
131 CAMBRIDGE ST.
BOSTON, MA 02104

DATED MATERIAL

ATTENDANCE REPORT

	Sun	YrAgo	Wed	YrAgo		Sun	Wed
Aug81	25.8	42.8	9	17			
Sep81	36	52	10.4	22.5	Aug. 1	35	15
Oct81	40	44.25	12.5	18	Aug. 8	31	14
Nov81	40.4	44.6	14.2	19	Aug 15	37	18
Dec81	44.5	42.25	12	19.75	Aug 22	37	14
Jan82	43.8	40.25	21.5	17.25	Aug 29	33	
Feb82	34	42.25	13	18.5	TOTALS	173	61
Mar82	42.25	44.4	12.4	14.5	Aver.	34.6	15.25
Apr82	41.5	48.5	13.75	12.2			
May82	37	32.6	18	13			
Jun82	40.5	41.75	14.4	18.5			
Aug82	42.5	35.75	21.5	14.6			

Bring a friend
to church!

Illiamo Membership as of Aug. 30, 1982 - 49

Counting time is not so important as making time count.

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QUINCY, IL 62301
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M.C.C. ILLIAMO
802½ Maine
Quincy, IL 62301

MCC Boston
131 Cambridge
Boston, MA 02114



The Metropolitan Community Church ILLIAMO Lamplighter

Volume 8, Issue 10 Quincy, Illinois October, 1982

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a
light unto my path." -Psalms 119:105

SPIRITUAL RETREAT WITH COLUMBIA RE-SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 9

An all-day Saturday spiritual retreat has been set for members of Illiamo and United Covenant Mission Church for October 9 at Finger Lakes State Park.

Originally planned to be an annual 'Illiamo-Columbia' night it has been enlarged to a program that will bring members of the two groups closer to each other and to God. Although Illiamoans will have to do most of the driving this year, Columbia is furnishing the food. It is hoped that in another year the situation can be reversed.

The program will be held entirely outdoors (at the church in Columbia in case of rain or extremely cold weather) and begins at 9:30 with a continental breakfast. Illiamoans will meet and leave from the church at 7 a.m. The rest of the morning will be spent deciding "Who's My Neighbor?" After lunch four workshops will be conducted by the Rev. Jeanne Leggett and Reid. They include one on relationships, women in the Bible, prayer and burn out.

Continued next page.....

SPIRITUAL RETREAT...Continued

The evening dinner will involve hot dogs and a campfire mixed generously with music, skits, testimonials and prayer. It will be our evening service. Adjourning by 9 Illiamoons should be back in the city by midnight.

Some of the details of the day will be left until arrival, so plan now to attend. Let Social Chairperson Robin Schmidt know if you are planning to attend.

FIRESIDE ROOM - OCTOBER 10

Bring a little extra money!

Feed your sweet tooth!

COOKIES - CAKES

FUDGE

PIES - COFFEE CAKE

Sponsored by the Sunday School

ILLIAMO INFO...news for and about our church family

October 3-11 is Arts Week, according to a release by the Quincy Society of Fine Arts. Members are encouraged to observe it by going to a concert or play, by seeing an exhibit or writing a poem, or by singing with friends.

People are needed to assist in setting up a Tape Ministry for the church. Contact Deacons Robert or Charles.

A recent letter from Larry Currier indicates he hopes to be attending an electronics school in Las Vegas.



FELLOWSHIP FLASHES---news from around the world of U.F.M.C.C.

Our apologies to the Rev. Karon VanGelder, MCC Springfield, for reporting she had accepted a new pulpit. Although she is leaving Springfield, her new assignment has not been determined.

Deacons from MCC Springfield Family are conducting services every other Sunday at MCC Joplin.

Sunday, October 3, is Fellowship Sunday. It marks the 14th birthday of our denomination. Members are encouraged to make a special offering for Fellowship expenses.

Our congratulations to MCC Quad Cities and MCC Springfield (IL). Their giving records have placed them in the top 20 for UFMCC. Quad Cities placed third, Springfield placed 20th.

Clergy Conferences this year will be held in San Francisco and Avon Park, FL. Tentatively, Reid will be attending the one in Florida.

WORDS TO LIVE BY

"HOPE must be strengthened by faith
FAITH must be strengthened by belief;
BELIEF must be strengthened by doing;
So DO what you believe; have faith in what you're doing; and
what you've hoped for will soon become a fact."

Christ teaching in the Beatitudes, as well as in his story foretelling the great judgement where saints and sinners will be separated on the right and the left, point out one major central theme. That, I believe, is that acts of a loving heart demonstrated towards one fellow man develop the kind of perfection we care called to. Feeding the hungry, clothes the naked, caring for the sick will create the kind of heart that will accept our fellow man's humanity as well as our own; also it will awaken us to God's nature of love in our lives, and that nature is what is perfect.
From John Wiseman

FROM THE STUDY...

Truly, the Lord works in mysterious ways! The recent visit of our founder, the Rev. Elder Troy Perry, was a good example.

Although we had scheduled Troy to visit during our Seventh Birthday celebration nearly eighteen months ago, we were in no financial condition to go ahead with the planned program when the actual time came. The Board of Directors, on faith, decided to go ahead with the travel expenses and plans for Troy and Greg Cutts, his spouse. They felt the spiritual blessings would outweigh the financial loss and somehow, some way, God would provide the finances. He did.

First, the Fellowship offices called to inform us that Greg could not make the trip (aflight savings of \$375). Next, Lee McMeins donated all the food for the special luncheon (unfortunately we had very poor attendance). Then, special offerings for the three special services were beyond expectations, allowing Iliamio to have Troy with us for the better part of a week for about half the budgeted amount! Praise the Lord!

Other expectations were also accurate. The Wednesday night healing service was a spiritual encounter with God that was new to many people. The Spirit moved through an unprecedented crowd of 46 people. The long-range affects of that service are still to be reported.

To sum it all up, I'lliamo had a marvelous week with one of the 'greats' of our Fellowship, experienced a new spiritual high and actually GAINED on our budget deficit through the experience.

Yes, God works in mysterious ways! The lesson we can learn, corporately and individually, is that when we put spiritual values above all else, God moves in our lives and solves our other problems. Let's remember that!

With love, Reid

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR AUGUST, 1982

Beginning balance	\$ 44.70	Aug Wkly. Avg.	\$ 309.00
Income	\$1,844.68	Aug Wkly Budget	\$ 375.00
Expense	1,715.48	Difference	\$ 66.00
Ending balance	\$173.90	Yr. to Date	\$753.90 Behind

Are you a make-believer Christian,
or are you a Real Christian?

1. Do you love God with all your heart, mind and soul?
2. Do you seek Gods will in your life? Or do you seek your own will?
3. Do you love your neighbor as yourself? Or would you rather spread gossip about them?
4. Do you have compassion for others who are struggling with lifestyles and problems? Or do you put them down every chance you get?
5. Do you financially support God? Or do you give as little as possible because your going out on the week end and thats more important to you?
6. Do you give time and talent to your church? Or do you sit back and critize everyone else that does?
7. Do you make time for Jesus? Or do you expect Jesus to be there only when your in trouble?
8. Do you pray for Gods will to be done in your life? Or do you expect God to always let you have your way?
9. Do you volunteer for committees, either as a chairperson ~~cochairperson~~ or a worker on a ~~committee~~ ~~committee~~? Or do you sit back and watch everyone else carry the load?
10. Do you set time aside to work in your church? Or do you expect everyone else to do it for you?
11. Do you always attend church on Sundays and Wednesdays? Or do you stay home because ther's a good program on TV?
12. Do you witness to others about Jesus? Or do you keep quite?
13. Do you put God first, others second and your self last? Or do you put yourself first at all times and the Heck with everyone else?

How many questions can you give positive answers too?

Mike H.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

17 - Carlton D.
24 - Le Mc
26 - Jody D.
31 - Sharon D.
31 - Carl H.

ILLIAMO INFO...Continued from page 2

Another letter from former member Kevin Wells informs us he may soon be teaching again, outside the continental United States.

Through a phone call from Lance Putnam we learn that he hopes to finish his nursing training this winter, hopefully taking state board exams in February.

Richard Russell writes that things are not going well for him. He is back in Louisiana and hopes to visit us soon.

John Wiseman has returned to Minneapolis, MN. His membership will remain here, however, for the time being.

Randy Webster is now attending college on a full-time basis.

Don't forget the congregational rap to be held in conjunction with the congregational dinner on Sunday, October 17.

Mike Howard and Marilyn Rees will be spending a week in Paris this month. (Mike won the expense-paid trip at work).

Harry Ellis and Donnie's mother is out of the hospital and doing well.

***** ***** ***** ***** *****

THE LAMPLIGHTER is the monthly newsletter of
Metropolitan Community Church-Illiamo
802½ Maine, Quincy, Illinois 62301 Phone (217) 224-2800
Reid L. Christensen, Pastor
Ron Anderson, Associate Pastor
Robert Sronce and Charles Rueb, Deacons
Regular Meeting Times:
Sunday Worship at 7:30 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Study, Prayer & Sharing, 7:30 p.m.
LAMPLIGHTER COMMITTEE: Liz Koehler, Chairperson, John Moore,
Robin Schmidt, Danny Stewart, Sharon Davis, Russell Hobbs,
Deadline: 3rd Sunday for month following

He felt if he saw himself as God intended him to be and allowed himself only to see Gods will in his life, then he could not be and in time would cease to be homosexual. The big problem with all this is that if Christ died and lived taking upon himself our nature, getting back to Hebrews, then what is the point of trying to figure out what Gods original concept of mans nature was in the beginning. Whether the Natural order of things in the beginning did or did not but as to my perfection and righteousness in Christ I don't think that hinges on going back to the archetype perfect man before the fall of man. For that matter, can anyone know all that was in the minds eye of God for man to be at the time of creation.

In that Christ our high priest took upon himself our nature, and all its forms of expression we need not longer worry about having a perfect nature to fellowship with him. He indeed became human, but was perfect. I feel Christ's teaching and example are directing us to strive for perfection of the Heart rather than to be perfect humanity. Yet the Christ who was made sin for us, experienced all our temptations and frustrations, also exhorted us that we be perfect even as our Father in heaven is perfect. What kind of perfection can we strive to attain while still struggling with our humanness? Perfection of nature infers that we know all that is necessary to understand what the Creator expected his creation to be. Perfection in law is somewhat more concrete and a yardstick to follow. Yet as the Jews learned their lessons, after following the worship of false Gods and turned their backs to Moses law, they fell into yet another form of idolatry, the false pride of worshipping ones moral superiority over his neighbors. Man in his zeal to follow an abstract yard stick for humanperfection only alienates himself from his fellow man, if he somehow succeeds in being better than they in keeping the law. If he fails to keep the laws standard, he alienates himself from God in that the law shows up his sin. Either way man loses in making his standard of Godlines - the law. To me it seems the only way to please God has to be determined by the personal state of ones heart and spirit. The eighth chapter of Romans verse 14 puts it "Those who are let by Gods spirit are Gods sons."

Continued bottom page before last

because I couldn't believe he could fellowship with one having so much of lower humanity. Now the book of Hebrews had shown me that I had a High Priest that can empathize with and had experienced every temptation conceivable to man. This meant to me that my homosexual feelings of lust, yes even they have been felt by the Lord. If these feelings were any different from any other kind of sexual lust. While growing up, my church had never let me even imagine Christ as identifying with my Gayness. Now I was hearing that Christ not only could identify with my lust drive, but all other impulses whether I thought them to be good or horrible. It was all wrapped up in Hebrews 4 verses 14-16. Especially where the word says "For we have not a high priest who is such that He can not feel with us in our weaknesses: but one who has gone through every temptation, just in the same way we had, and without sin." Now I realize Christ was without sin, but that is the beauty of His plan, he felt all that is human, all our nature yet was pure untaunted by evil motive, perfect in heart, and thus could still love us in spite of our weakness and humanity.

The other day I was reading one of the major denominational Christian magazines and there was one of those eye stopping big letter headlines "Homosexual Healing" Curosity got me, so I read the article in the paper that had been passed on by a well meaning Christian friend. It was an appeal to the need for men to be God's perfect creation, that is perfect as man existed before the fall of Adam. The author, a reformed or at least abstaining homosexual, had theorized that when Adam fell he not only lost fellowship with God but also with his mate. He related back how Adam had blamed Eve for causing him to eat the apple and sin. His analysis of the story was as man saw his sin he could no longer face God. He then saw himself with diminished respect; as being naked, weak and vulnerable and as a result viewed woman's softness and feminine qualities as unattractive, threatening and responsible for his failings. The author states that because of this fall of our two human parents the separation of the sexes gave way to various sins of fallen nature including homosexuality. The writer, in telling of his own life speaks of how he began to see himself as the perfect baby creature God intended him to be, man in the natural order of things God created, before the fall of man.

Hello There,

Recently I was talking with a friend at work, you know, one of those special people with whom you share your true feelings and bear the other's burdens; a real sister in the Lord! Yet, this good friend had a problem most of us seem to deal with from time to time: that was trouble reconciling her human emotions with her genuine desire for a Christian walk.

Joan had indeed had an unfortunate incident happen to her several weeks ago. A young man she had been occasionally seen had called late and said he desperately needed someone to talk with because he had some serious problems. Joan hesitated, but said it was alright for him to drop by. When her friend arrived it became apparent that he did have a problem but not the kind she had expected. He was drunk and soon became uncontrollably sexually aggressive. In a short while she could see that it was pointless to fight against his overtures and so she submitted unwillingly to sexual relations with him. The point of telling all this is the concern that she was now relating to me was not as much the fact she was molested or she might have become pregnant: as the fact of the dreaded fear that she, at some point, may have gotten some sense of enjoyment out of what had happened to her. She, as a Christian, knew she was serving Jesus and had not chosen a path of willful sin, but still felt guilty. Now, I know in contrast to much of our community, this story must sound like "The Perils of Little Nell", but there is a problem of mind and spirit that frustrates many of us as well; that of feeling raw human base emotion is somehow going to alienate us from the fellowship of Christ.

After I had listened, the only reply I could give was a simple one: Joan, if there is anything I have become convinced of these last months is that Christ understands, accepts, and can empathize with our humanness because He too has felt every conceivable emotion we can think of. The proof is in Hebrews, chapter 4 verse 14 through 16.

In my own life, somewhere in the middle of uncontrollable lust, anger, and depression the truth of these verses hit me. I had felt alienated from the loving perfect Christ

Continued following calendar.....

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
3 Worship Service, 7:30 Rev. Reid Christensen	4 Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 (open)	5 Board Meeting, 7:30	6 Bible Study, Prayer & Sharing, 7:30	7 Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 (open)	1	2
			---New Freedom	Evangelistic Team	8 in San Antonio, TX---	9 Day Spiritual Retreat
10 Worship Service, 7:30 Rev. Reid Christensen	11 Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 (closed)	12	13 Bible Study, Prayer & Sharing, 7:30	14 Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 (open)	15	16 BINGO, 7 \$200 Jackpot
			---New Freedom	Evangelistic Team	in Houston, TX---	
17 Congregational Dinner & Rap, 6 Worship Service, 7:30 Rev. Reid Christensen	18 Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 (closed)	19 Staff Meeting, 7:30	20 Bible Study, Prayer & Sharing, 7:30	21 Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 (open)	22	23 BINGO, 7
24 Worship Service, 7:30 Rev. Reid Christensen	25 Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 (closed)	26	27 Bible Study, Prayer & Sharing, 7:30	28 Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 (open)	29	30
			---New Freedom	Evangelistic Team	in Wichita, KS---	
31 Worship Service, 7:30 Rev. William Myers	COMING-- "Praise & Prayer" Service Thanksgiving Day Dinner		Schedule of Events for OCTOBER, 1982 Metropolitan Community Church - Illiamo			

MCC Omaha
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Omaha, NE 68103-0173

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AWARE

Aware is a new group for the gay community of this area. We are here to help the gay community do activities together. Summer and winter festivities have been planned. Some activities planned are boating, camping, horse riding, canoeing, movies, crafts, card games, roller skating, picnics and ect. Meetings will be held at the MCC Fellowship Hall on Friday evenings at 7:30



THE MCC~ OMAHA
CATALYST

THE OMAHA CATALYST Newsletter and Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha are affiliated with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. MCC is an ecumenical, evangelistic and eucharistic church for people from all walks of Christian tradition. We are committed to spreading the Good News of God's love and saving grace through Christ Jesus everywhere, and to sharing in an open Communion of bread and fruit of the vine every Sunday.

 THE OMAHA CATALYST is a community service and published by MCC Omaha. The material printed herein is original unless otherwise credited. Opinions expressed in all stories and articles are those of the writer and not necessarily those of MCC Omaha or the UFMCC. Publication of the name of any group, individual or business shall not be construed as an indication of their sexual or religious orientation.

Please send contributions of any kind to THE OMAHA CATALYST, MCC Omaha, P. O. Box 3173, Omaha, NE 68103

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METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA
 803 North 20th Street, Omaha, NE
 (402) 345-2563

Counseling by Appointment

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 3173
 Omaha, NE 68103

MINI-CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:30 AM
 Praise, Prayer and Healing 5:00 PM
 Evening Worship Service 7:00 PM

Tuesday Womenspace 7:30 PM

Thursday Bible Stud. 7:30 PM

Friday AWARE 7:30 PM

Saturday Game Night 8:00 PM to 11:00PM

Due to the newness of Rev. Jan Kross the schedule will be changing as she develops the groups and activities that the people of the church want. You can contact the church for any upcoming special events as they come about.

OMAHA'S GAY DIRECTORY

Diamond Bar Inc., 712 South 16th
 hours 9 AM - 1 AM Mon - Sat 12PM - 1 AM Sun.

Hollywood-Chaplin's, 401 South 14th
 hours 11 AM - 1 AM Mon-Fri. 3 PM - 1 AM Sat
 12 PM - 1 AM Sun. (lunch served 11-2 Mon-Fri)

J'S Pub, 19th & Leavenworth
 hours 3:30 PM - 1 AM Tues.- Sun. Closed Mon.

Stage Door Lounge, 1512 Howard
 hours 8 AM - 1 AM Mon - Sat 12 PM - 1 AM Sun

Swingtime Lounge, 2820 Cumings
 hours 10 AM - 1 AM Mon - Sat 12 PM - 1 AM Sun

Family of Pentecost Church 3802 Dodge Street
 Hours listed elsewhere in this issue

Metropolitan Community Church 803 North 20th
 Hours listed elsewhere in this issue

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did.

In 48 hours God had brought me through a long-suffering period, to new hope, to a new meaning of patience.

I did not learn patience until I could see God working through my situation. That does not mean I will not be frustrated again. Only that I don't need to be, if I'll let God work - I know he will and can if I'll step out of the way.

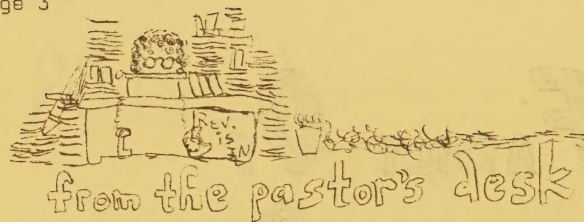
Let Go - Let God

GAY A. A. AND ALANON.

Fridays 8:15 PM - Lutheran Medical Center,
515 S. 26th, 1st floor classroom

Saturdays 1:30 PM - 48th Street AA Clubhouse

Both are Open Meetings for anyone interested.



My brothers and sisters in Christ,

What a beautifully warm and loving welcome you have given Meta and me. We praise God continually for the many, many kindnesses that you have showered upon us. Thank you.

Our family at MCC Omaha is growing and as we look around us at each service, and see new faces, I hope that each one of us will remember when we were that new face, and how much it meant to us that people reached out to us in Christian love. There is not one of us so poor that we do not have a smile and a friendly "hello" to give.

As we enter into the Lenten Season, a time of self examination, I pray that each of us will focus on the "giving to" not the "giving up"; that we will focus our energies and our meditations on our potential, not our regrets. Let us concentrate our attention on our victories in Christ Jesus, and not on our Satan-directed failures. In the next several weeks the road to the cross is our Liturgical theme, but let us rejoice in our knowledge that we can see beyond the cross the road which reveals God's power and glory.

MCC Omaha Family is looking forward to exploring and developong our mission and goals for the coming year(s) at a retreat on Saturday, March 13, 1982, from 9 A.M. to 7 P.M. at the church. If you are unable to be there for the full day we hope you will come and be a part of this important work for as long a time as possible.

We have added a weekly 5 P.M. Sunday service which is a very informal "Praise, Prayer and Healing" meet-
continued on page 15

FAMILY OF PENTECOST CHURCH

As the traffic speeds by on Dodge Street, with horns blaring and lights flashing, the sights and sounds of the street drift into a haven of rest located in the midst of all the noise and confusion of life.

The lights reflect off a gleaming walnut cross and dance across rust colored carpet and rows of chairs. The noise competes with strains of organ music and voices of saints.

"We see the Lord,
And He is high and lifted up
And His train fills the temple."

The laughter of children echoes down from the Sunday School rooms above. The sounds of clapping hands and shaking tambourines vibrate into the street.

"In the name of Jesus,
In the name of Jesus,
We have the victory!"

Some come through these open doors to find a friend. Some come to find peace of mind, or rest for their souls. Some come to find joy. Some come to pray, to praise, or be healed. Some come to find Jesus, others come to get reacquainted with him.

For whatever reason, they come. And within these open doors, they are welcomed with love, and accept-

SALT SHAKER (MARK 9:50)

By: Garrett B.

"Arise, shine; for your light has come,
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."
Isaiah 60:1

Shine, be happy, smile, overflow with joy! "What! and be disappointed. Are you kidding, they'd think I was a religious fanatic." Yet we are called by our Lord Jesus to be a shining people. And how hard it is to shine our faith when so many around us don't believe; don't believe that we are children of the living God, saved by the giving love of Jesus and given power through the Holy Spirit.

Even more dark is the darkness we wrap around ourselves. "Oh, I can't be happy. I don't deserve to be happy. Happiness is a lie told by the foolish." We can become adjusted-comfortable if you will-to our pains of body, mind and spirit. Yet if we reach into the darkness of our fear, simply believing, we will not be disappointed. We may even be surprised in the unique way God has suddenly used us to heal. For it is in reaching out of our limitations and fears and pains that we are made whole, brave and happy. Praise God!

"Arise, shine; for your light has come,
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."

continued from page 12
 from a weekend Sunday night. The weekend was bitter cold, chill factor -75° F. We had two pipes for the washer on the north wall of the house, in the basement. With that cold they had frozen solid. My spouse and I had tried to thaw them. As they thawed, they burst and water flew everywhere. The water to the house was turned off and we waited for Monday morning. We had to take off work and went to get supplies. (And we didn't know what we were doing.) When we returned home with parts, we went to work. I was aware of a prayer within me, "for patience God, as I could be frustrated very easy."

So we make all the connections, give it time to dry, and then turn on the water. It did not hold, the water pressure was to great. Off goes the water again, we try once more and again nothing works. My frustration level is very high, I became very upset, as I don't know what to do next.

Then God reminds me - "What was your prayer most recently?" "But God," I answer, "I prayed for patience, not broken water pipes, or a car that won't run or bills I can't pay." God, in that quiet still voice, says, "Why don't you learn patience then." And I see that what is happening is really a lesson in life, to teach me that quality I seek - patience.

So that night, before bed I had told God that I would try harder to let him work in me. My spouse and I decided to try once more the next morning.

Tuesday morning with renewed hope and a brighter outlook, we did try and again it did not work - still had leaks. So we called a plumber. What a miracle, he came over just a short time later. The repairs were done in less than an hour, water was on, and no leaks. Praise God.

Talking with the plumber, he told us that Sunday many pipes had frozen and he had been on the run constantly since, in fact still had calls on his list. He could not have made it any sooner than he continued on page 18

PRISON

MINISTRY

"Rewarding Friendship" By: Shane V. And Al I.
 Edited

Throughout the world there are many lonely and depressed men and women that have no one to write to since their families have cast them aside because of mistakes they have made.

God did not make up perfect--we all make mistakes. However, if we learn and benefit by our mistakes, then God will forgive us. The men and women that have made such mistakes and have been judged and sentenced by our judicial system and been placed in prisons have a very lonely and depressed life. Take a moment of your time and help a lonely person that is incarcerated and give him or her a ray of hope by having a friend to write to and confide in. Remember it is possible we all could at one time or another be placed in a position that would, or could, cause us to be confined and placed in the loneliness and depression that these men and women are in now.

Being stripped of your freedom, identity, social activities, etc., is not an easy thing to accept and adhere to. Wouldn't it lift your heart and make you feel better to know just by writing a letter or two to a very lonely person and helping that person through his or her troubled times would be rewarding?

By adopting a prisoner through the mail exemplifies the kind of commitment Jesus Christ commands through the New Testament. Listen to the cry of our needy world and respond with hands and heart.

continued on page

continued from page 5

Your interest and concern may help a troubled person find a new purpose in life. Many people have abandoned crime and started again with the help of such correspondents.

Men and women in prison do not have the easiest life. Doing hard time is lonely and boring. I urge you to correspond with a prisoner because people are separated from their friends, family, lovers, husbands, wives, and children, and have no real social outlet but you.

Give your love by writing a new friend --the personal concern you share in letters is a step toward eliminating the crimes on our streets. Today four out of five crimes are committed by ex-offenders, but statistics show that "man to man" efforts between community volunteers and inmates yield impressive reductions in the repeat offense rate from over 50% to as low as 10%.

Committed Christians like yourselves can accomplish what billions in federal spending cannot. You can be God's instrument for introducing an inmate to the life changing love of Jesus Christ.

Remember that most prisoners feel lonely, helpless, bitter, bewildered, lost, and suspicious.

There is much injustice in the prison system, just as there is in everyday life. Encourage reaching beyond the negative by affirming the positive opportunities available now and in the future.

You may not see instant miracles or immediate improvement, but be assured the love you share will plant a seed that will grow with time--it is God who gives the increase.

Ground your relationship in mutual trust, respect and understanding. Be persevering, and in time your sincerity and its source --Christ's love-- will shine through. The world may be unfair, but Christ is always just and merciful.

continued on page 9

continued from page 3

ing. If you like to sing and praise the Lord - spend time in sharing and praying for people's needs - and learn more about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, please come and join us.

Plans for our Easter services and our April Congregational Meeting are still being developed. My April letter will have details, and if you need more information please call the church office between 1 and 5.

God loves you, and so do I,

Pastor Jan

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MCC Omaha's 1981 Treasurers Report

You People of God have once again responded very graciously to the needs of the church, our home, as family - the children of our parent.

I sit to write this report very overwhelmed. In 1981 we had some tight times financially but your responses were beautiful, through your gifts and special offerings.

Our financial needs were also met through some budgeting moves. In October we were in the red about \$500. To save church expenses and to finance our immediate needs, four accounts were closed. (Deacons checking, Building Checking and savings, and Book Account.) Also Bingo was began to bring in outside income. The belief by the treasure in closing these accounts was not to eliminate outreach, but rather that any need at the church was a need of the whole church. And the fact that these other accounts were dormant for some time and the church was in need, the these other accounts were absorbed into our general checking account and we have kept our Mutual Fund, which is a better building account at 12.5% interest.

Another establishment by your treasurer; building on our past treasurer's hopes and ambitions was to establish all accounts in a double ledger form for easy audit.

So briefly in summary all these changes and your love gifts helped MCC Omaha to end the year with \$1238.96 in our checking account, balancing with the bank. In our Mutual Fund, \$2,100.00 plus some interest. And petty cash of \$100., this is an account for on going daily needs of the church. All I can say to this, is God Bless you.

But let me say that the transition period between pastors at MCC has been very draining on our monies. We are now, once again, in the red, quite deeply. I ask that you will pray with me that our financial needs will be met, and consider what part you might take in this ministry. May God Bless.

BE THY SELF

Could it be wrong of me,
To be in love with thee,
Though I'm a he and not a she?
Can there a difference be
Between the hearts of a he or a she
If the love is true, as is my love for you?

I remember once when I was a little boy,
And I had this very special toy,
Someone said to me
'Tis wrong of thee
To love that toy
It's for a girl, not a boy.

I think it was wrong of them to say
And I remember that still today,
So, I ask "my" Almighty God above,
And here is what he said of love:

Mar, "to thine own self be true," (Shakespeare)
Follow your own heart, It knows what to do,
Never thyself betray
And no regrets shall pass thy way,
And so today I love thee still
As I always have and always will.

Mark Johns
Reprinted from
THE SUNBURST
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

ance, and support.

This is Family of Pentecost Church. A worshiping community of lesbians and gay men who are loving and learning together what it really means to be the Body of Christ on earth.

After much struggle, long hours of prayer, and a move of the Holy Spirit, God ordained the ministry of Family of Pentecost Church as an alternative for both the Gay and Pentecostal Communities in Omaha. The percentage of homosexuals in the Pentecostal Community is high, and Family of Pentecost Church came into being to help meet that need.

Family of Pentecost Church is an affiliate congregation of the National Gay Pentecostal Alliance (NGPA) and also serves as the headquarters of that denomination. NGPA is engaged in creating a network of Christ - centered, Gay - oriented congregations where spirit-filled men and women may worship God in Spirit and in Truth without fear of rejection or condemnation.

Family of Pentecost Church has become a "Family" for many. We grow as we learn to love one another. We are one body with many members; Trinitarian Pentecostals, Oneness Pentecostals, Charismatics from numerous mainline denominations, and generally Spirit-filled Christians who have one thing in common, the need to be able to worship their Lord in the manner the Holy Spirit leads them. We are "Pentecostal" in that we are open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our worship and in our lives, and depend upon that Power to help us live victoriously. We are a "Church" in that we believe the Church Universal is the vehicle instituted by Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to build God's Kingdom and spread the Gospel of the love of Jesus for all people.

The schedule of events gets hectic sometimes, but Family of Pentecost Church is a body of believers who take real joy in serving their Lord. There are two

GOOD *
GAY *
GRUB

IMPOSSIBLE VEGTABLE PIE

2	cups chopped broccoli	1 1/2	cups milk
1/2	cup chopped onion	3/4	cup Bisquick
1/2	cup chopped green pepper	3	eggs
1	cup shredded cheddar cheese	1	tsp salt
		1/4	tsp pepper

Basic instruction: Heat oven to 400°. Lightly grease pie plate, 10 x 1 1/2 inches. Heat 1 inch salted water (1/2 tsp salt to 1 cup water) to boiling. Add broccoli, cover and heat to boiling. Cook until almost tender, about 5 min.; drain thoroughly. Mix broccoli, onion, green pepper and cheese in pie plate. Beat remaining ingredients until smooth. Pour into pie plate. Bake until golden brown, 35 to 40 minutes. Let stand before cutting. Serves 6

Now when I bake this impossible pie I like to change things to make cooking fun. I use 1 cup of broccoli and 1 cup of corn (whole Kernal). or, I'll use 2 cups of string beans or 1 cup corn, 1 cup string beans. And I don't use onions, but increase the green pepper to 3/4 cup. My favorite cheese is monterey jack. And if someone in your house just has to have meat with every meal a can of chunk chicken or tuna (6 or 6 1/2 oz.) is a nice addition.

Submitted by Ricky Rich

PATIENCE THREW LONG SUFFERING

by: a Fellow Pilgrim * * * * *

"The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self control; against such there is no law."

Galatians 5:22,23

As you have read there are several fruits of the spirits, here lets talk about peace and longsuffering. I am aware that long suffering can bring about patience. So when I refer to patience I mean the results of long suffering.

I have prayed that God would make me a patient man. But I have learned, that to be patient, I just can't look in a mirror and instantly be patient. It takes learning by living.

Now I have been impatiently awaiting that quality of patience. God has heard hundreds of prayers from me in request for his gift. Is that not long suffering? Time is a factor in both longsuffering and patience. To me one is the result of the other.

Longsuffering is the ability to await the completion of something. A woman goes through this in pregnancy to childbirth. How successful in awaiting the outcome shows our patience.

People also experience this in a dentist office. Some would rather have a tooth pulled in 10 minutes and not have the dentist work 40 or 50 minutes to save their tooth. We also may need a pain killer for just a cleaning or a check up. We can't stand discomfort. People can't wait, they are unable to bear longsuffering for patience. Longsuffering can't stand the pain. Patience or impatience can't take the time or discomfort.

Now let me relate how God has taught me a lesson in patience most recently. I had just come home from

continued from page 6

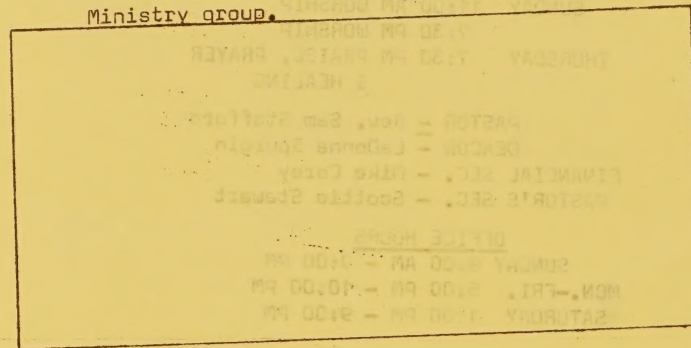
A little praise goes a long way, so be an encouraging friend rather than a preacher. Don't discuss or ask about past crimes, but build your relationship by sharing common interests that instill a sense of worth, highlighting the positive future.

Encourage proper attitudes by gently sharing the other side, respecting their opinions without patronizing. Just as we don't expect a newborn baby to walk, we should not expect total responsibility from an ex-offender's first attempts to adjust to society. He will fall down at times; he needs someone to hold his hand while he learns to walk. That is the agony and the ecstasy of the role you will assume as a positive, caring friend—not to change the inmate or keep him out of trouble, or even make him happy, but simply to stand by his side.

We urge you to correspond and make some lonely inmates' time a lot easier for them. It only takes a few moments of your time which in time will be self-rewarding.

*****8

EDITORS NOTE: There is a list available of inmates and both men and women who have requested some one to write to them. If you feel you would like to help in this service please contact the Church and we will put you in touch with the Prison Ministry group.



services every Sunday at 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM, and a Praise, Prayer and Healing service every Thursday evening at 7:30.

Pentecostal Bible Institute, a division of NGPA meets every Thursday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 offering Christian Education courses and a program of Ministerial Training.

Family of Pentecost Church also offers an active and growing Sunday School department as well as monthly workshops and numerous social activities.

Our door is always open, and our "Family" waits to welcome all with open arms. Come Worship with us, see how the Lord is moving and blessing. You'll be glad you did.

By Rev. Sam Stafford

FAMILY OF PENTECOST

Tel. (402) 558-0501

WORSHIP

SUNDAY 11:00 AM WORSHIP

7:30 PM WORSHIP

THURSDAY 7:30 PM PRAISE, PRAYER
& HEALING

PASTOR - Rev. Sam Stafford

DEACON - LaDonna Spurgin

FINANCIAL SEC. - Mike Corey

PASTOR'S SEC. - Scottie Stewart

OFFICE HOURS

SUNDAY 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

MON.-FRI. 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

SATURDAY 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM

WHISPER A PRAYER

Whisper a prayer in the morning,

Whisper a prayer at noon,

Whisper a prayer in the evening,

Will keep your heart in tune.

Author unknown

Submitted By Rick Rich

REMEMBER

You Shall pass through this world but once.

Any good therefore you can do or, any kindness
that you can show to any human being do it now.

Do not differ, nor neglect it; for you shall
never pass this way again.

And may you never let yesterday use up today!!
For yesterday is but a dream, and tomorrow is only
a vision, but today well lived, makes every yesterday
a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision
of hope!!

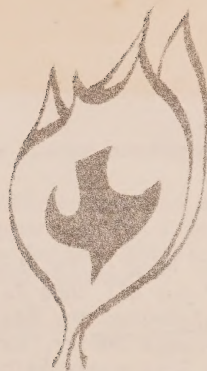
Author unknown

Submitted by Reginald
Porter

First of all things,
For friendship, there must be
That delightful, indefinable state,
called feeling at ease,
With your companion,-
The one man, the one woman,
Out of a multitude who interests you,
Who meets your thoughts and tastes.

Julia Duhring

Submitted by Rick Rich



THE NEW LIGHT

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
of Greater St. Louis

5108 Waterman Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63106

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Boston, MA. 02114

*God can
make it
happen!*

from
the pastor...

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dear Friends,

God continues to bless our work here in St. Louis as we continue to "Praise the Lord" for all that He is doing among us. Recently, as we celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, we beheld the Glory of God in faces we have never before seen and in faces we have not seen in a long time. Yet, as we witness God's miraculous healing power among us, we find ourselves saying "Is that all there is?" My brothers and sisters, I pray that each and everyone of you will join me in saying "Lord, we want all you have to give us". I truly believe when we try to define the power of God in human terms we tend to put God in a pot which limits God. Let us not put limits on what God can or cannot do, but rather let us allow God to give to us, His children, ALL that He has to offer us.

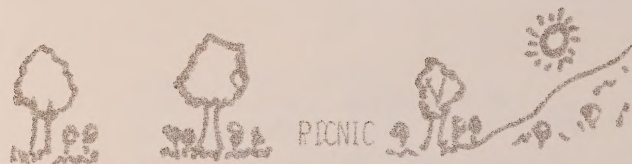
As we prepare to celebrate Pentecost Sunday, on the 30th of this month, I pray that we shall experience in this church, and in this denomination, a Pentecost such as has never before been experienced since the days of the apostles. I also pray that each of you will be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in this church and be willing to accept ALL that God has to offer you.

It is such a joy to my heart to know the loving, gentle Spirit of the Living God, Jesus Christ, in my life and I know when you are ready and willing to accept the totality of what He has to offer, He will pour out His Spirit upon you and you shall experience a joy in your life such as you have never before known.

I want to take this opportunity to invite you to join with me in prayer that all of us would be receptive to the movement of His Spirit among us. God has promised a great victory in this city and I know we will not be disappointed.

May 2:	Mothers Day
May 15:	Picnic at New Salem Park, Ill. with MCC-Springfield, Ill.
May 19 through 23:	Evangelistic team in Springfield, Mo.
May 27 through 30:	District Conference - Wichita Business conference
May 30, June 1:	Spiritual Renewal - Rev. Troy Perry
June 18 through 27:	Gay Pride Week
September 3 through 6:	District Conference - St. Louis Spiritual conference

HEALING SERVICES are held the last Sunday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Come, share in the healing ministry.



Springfield, Illinois MCC would like to extend an invitation to each of you to join them in a picnic to be held Saturday, May 15th at 1:00 pm at New Salem Park. Please call the church office - 361-7284 for more information.

Join the fun of Christian fellowship with our family from Springfield, Illinois.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

The NEW LIGHT is 'YOUR' paper. It cannot be put out by "ONE" person. We request your input so that 'YOUR' paper will be the best issue within UFMCC.

Will you help us with your drawings, cartoons, short stories, news items, testimonies, typing, folding, and/or stapling?

The deadline for submitting articles is the 15th of each month. We have been very lax in the past which has resulted in late publications; therefore, we must adhere to this deadline. This gives the typist(s) and editor sufficient time to properly prepare, edit, and correlate articles.

Yes, I am willing to contribute to "OUR" NEW LIGHT publication. I will be able to contribute:

_____ article per month
_____ article per quarter
_____ article per year.

Yes, I am willing to help with the following:

_____ drawing _____ each month
_____ cartoons _____ every other month
_____ short stories _____ please specify
_____ news items _____ please specify
_____ testimony
_____ typing
_____ folding, stapling

In addition, I would like to see monthly articles on: _____

Name: _____
Phone: _____ To be used by NEW LIGHT staff only

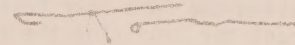
Best time to reach me is: _____

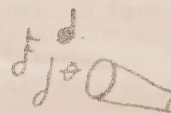
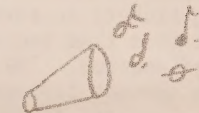
Please give to NEW LIGHT editor. Many Thanks.

From the Pastor continued

May God bless each and every one of you this day and may He pour out His Spirit upon you, and may your lives be forever brightened by the "Light which shines amidst the darkness".

I love you,


Rev. Tom Jordan

 INTRODUCING 

It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to the GOOD NEWS SINGERS:

Gary H., Donna P., and Ron N.

MCC, St. Louis has truly been blessed this past spring with three dedicated individuals who love the Lord and are sharing their vocal talents in trio form. Not only are they sharing with us here at MCC, but also with area churches in and around our city.

If you have not yet had the privilege and the pleasure to hear the beautiful sounds from this group, we invite you to attend our Sunday services and receive a blessing.

In addition, we hope to have an updated schedule of the concert locations each month to be posted in this publication, THE NEW LIGHT.

Keep your eyes and ears open and receive a musical blessing as the GOOD NEWS SINGERS sing out God's love.

SINGLES SUPPORT GROUP

The Singles Support Group continues to provide a variety of activities for singles and those in relationships.

The 50's Sock Hop held April 17 was successful (and brought back memories to some of us). Congratulations Candi and Rob for having the 50's Best Costume. Thank you Majestic Restaurant for providing the prizes of a complimentary dinner to each.

An evening at the Muny Opera at group rates may be possible if 25 persons can commit themselves by purchasing tickets in advance. The date cannot be scheduled at this time because the Muny has yet to schedule its performances. The Opera season will open June 21 and run through September 4. Up to date information will be provided at each Singles meeting.

MCC-Springfield, Ill. Singles Support Group has invited us and others to share with them at a picnic on Saturday, May 15 in New Salem, Ill. For further details, see their letter of invitation on the bulletin board over the water fountain or come to the May 1 Rap Session.

Upcoming Events:

- May 1 -- Rap Session
- May 15 -- Picnic at New Salem, Ill. (see above)
- June 5 -- Rap Session (2 lawyers to speak & answer questions)
- June 19 -- No plans at present. (This is first Saturday of Gay Pride Week.)

The Singles Support Group is Your group. All are welcome to participate in planning as well as in activities. Planning meetings are held one hour prior to the Rap Sessions. Suggestions are always welcome.

RAINBOW VENTURES SPRING SALE

--- 10% off on any retail sale of any Shaklee product through June 30, 1982.

--- Savings on the following products:

Fiber Wafers (120 count) - Regular price \$7.65
Sale price \$5.00

Easy to use source of 5 types of fiber
for better elimination.

ProLecim Nibblers (200 count) Reg. price \$13.05
Sale price \$7.00

Handy nut like flavor snack for the
serious dieter. Contains lecithin for
additional cholesterol emulsion.

NPS Food Fortifier (22 oz.) Reg. price \$13.90
Sale price \$8.00

This powder formula of concentrated protein
is an easy way to complete protein to
almost any food you cook. You won't
notice it's there, but your body will.

Baking Enricher (28 oz) Reg. price \$19.90
Sale price \$12.00

A complete protein powder to fortify
your breads, cookies, pancakes, etc.

VITAMIN E 100 IU capsules (180 count)
Reg. price \$15.15
Sale price \$9.00

Contact us: c/o MCC, St. Louis Donna & Linda

a scripture lesson...



and lungs strong enough to ward off infection. In a way it is our body's guard against air pollution. "A" also helps maintain good vision, particularly night vision and assists in the digestion of protein.

Now, what amount of vitamin is needed? The government RDA is 5,000 IU per day for adults. Private research indicates that the best amount level is between 25,000 and 50,000 IU per day for adults. Although it would take several months to build up to a toxic level, vitamin A is not a vitamin to experiment with on yourself. For the novice, "A" is best taken as a component of a good multivitamin tablet.

In addition to the overall general purpose of "A", it has also been found helpful in the treatment of acne, bronchial asthma, hyperthyroidism, and premenstrual symptoms to name a few.

Next month we'll take a look at the complex "B's".
Happy Spring!

Donna & Linda

Matthew 5:8 reads 'Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.'

Who are the 'pure in heart'? How can I be 'pure in heart'? The dictionary describes 'PURE' as without blemish.

Now, there are none among us here on earth who are 'without blemish' - without sin; but, if you are like me, I'm sure that you want to see God. There are so many questions that I want answered, that can only be answered in the sight of God.... so, how do I become 'PURE' in heart? How do WE become 'PURE' in heart?

- A. Tear down the walls of self prejudices.
- B. Look only for the good in our neighbors.
- C. Be a good samaritan.

I - we - are only human. How can I - we - accomplish these things?

1. Daily walking with Jesus through prayer, meditation, and Bible reading.
2. Replacing negative thoughts with positive helpful thinking.
3. Make an effort to do something each day for another.

Let's begin today to strive to become PURE IN HEART, so that when that great day comes, we can see God.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE

1. Yes. Deuteronomy 22:10
2. No. Shakespeare, Richard III
3. Yes. 2 Kings 8:13
4. Yes. Job 16:2
5. No. From an old belief that when Adam ate the forbidden fruit, which is reputed to have been an apple, part of it lodged in his throat.
6. Yes. Psalm 78:24,25
7. No, but the same comparison is found in Ezekiel 10:10.
8. Yes. Ecclesiastes 12:12

On Mothers Day:

A tribute to my mother, Theima.

Sometimes in the haste of life, I forget to express the true gratitude that I owe you, my dear mother.

The fresh, brilliant array of new spring colors is a very small collection of the beauty you helped nurture in my growing up years. How you must have ached during those teenaged years, as I tried to find myself and my place in life; How many times, I put you and my family out as worthless individuals. The know-it-all attitude and the self-righteous stand I showed which kept you at arms length; To never truly let me know you completely. Oh, how I wish I could erase those times for you, and yet, today, I hope you see the growth in me that you allowed my apartness to develop.

The financial struggles you and Dad experienced and yet, through it all, my needs and wants were always met. -- (Well, less the bike, which would surely have been the end of me, as clumsy as I was during those years.) I know you often went without so that your children could have. Your love was and is so great.

Thank you Mother dear, for your continuing love, even though I am now far away from your nest. Thanks for instilling in me, the loving qualities with which you lived daily. I only pray that somehow my life will reflect your love and your greatness in some small amount.

God truly blessed me, by letting me share a portion of my life with you. I LOVE YOU.

Your daughter,

Nan

RAINBOW WISDOM



This month we begin to look at the specifics of your supplementation health insurance plan, vitamins and minerals. First, to set the record straight, vitamins do not in and of themselves give you energy or pep nor do they increase your appetite. Their job basically is to regulate metabolism, help convert fat and carbohydrates into energy and help to form bone and tissues. In proper amounts for your system, vitamins play a major role in helping you feel good by helping your system synchronize. Twenty vitamins have been found necessary for human nutrition.

Seventeen minerals seem to be important for our bodies. All tissues and body fluids contain various minerals with the teeth, bones, nerves, and muscles particularly reliant on minerals. Minerals, like vitamins, act as catalysts to important body functions like digestion and the production of hormones. They also help maintain a proper water balance in our system.

We'll begin with a closer look at vitamin A. "A" is one of several vitamins considered "fat soluble", as opposed to "water soluble". Very simply stated this means that "A" is stored in the body tissues for use as the body call for it. Water soluble vitamins are flushed out of the body on an hourly or daily basis once the body uses the amount needed, and therefore have to be ingested on a more frequent basis.

There are many natural sources of "A": liver, eggs, yellow fruits and vegetables, whole milk and milk products. The major supplemental form is fish liver oil.

So why do we need vitamin "A"? Externally "A" helps to provide smooth soft skin by aiding in growth and repair of body tissues. Internally "A" helps keep the mucous membranes of the nose, throat, mouth

IT ISN'T THE CHURCH - IT'S YOU

If you want to have the kind of a church
Like the kind of a church you like,
You needn't slip your clothes in a grip
And start on a long, long hike.
You'll only find what you left behind,
For there's nothing really new.
It's a knock at your self when you knock your church;
It isn't the church - it's you.
When everything seems to be going wrong,
And trouble seems everywhere brewing;
When prayer meeting, Young People's meeting, and all,
Seem slimmering slowly-stewing,
Just take a look at yourself and say,
'What's the use of being blue?'
Are you doing your 'bit' to make things 'hit'?
It isn't the church - it's you.
It's really strange sometimes, don't you know,
That things go as well as they do,
When we think of the little, the very small mite -
We add to the work of the few,
We sit, and stand round, and complain of what's done,
And do very little but fuss.
Are we bearing our share of the burdens to bear?
It isn't the church - it's us.
So, if you want to have the kind of a church
Like the kind of a church you like,
Put off your guile, and put on your best smile,
And hike, dear people, just hike,
To the work in hand that has to be done -
The work of saving a few.
It isn't the church that is wrong, dear ones,
It isn't the church - it's you.

Author Unknown

Submitted by: Joey Iman

Reprinted from THE NEW WINE
Newsletter of MCC - Pittsburgh

WHO'S JOB IS IT?

This is a story about four people named EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY AND NOBODY. There was an important job to be done and EVERYBODY was sure SOMEBODY would do it. ANYBODY could have done it, but NOBODY did it. SOMEBODY got angry about that, because it was EVERYBODY's job. EVERYBODY thought ANYBODY could do it, but NOBODY realized that EVERYBODY wouldn't do it. It ended up that EVERYBODY blamed SOMEBODY when NOBODY did what ANYBODY could have done.

MCC of the Rockies, Bulletin Board

Sing
Praises!

Praise the Lord for the beautiful voices we had to make our Easter cantata a great success. It is always a rewarding experience to be part of such a performance. From the comments we've received, the congregation was as moved as we were. Thank you Gary for your excellent guidance, and a special thanks to Sherri and Fred for their technical help. WE have come a long way from the four people at our first rehearsal in September to our present twenty voices. Our next goal is to have as many women as men, and we can always use more voices. Come sing praises to the Lord.

Linda

I MUST MARCH

There is sadness
For those of us
Who march to a different beat.

It isn't easy
Being different than others
It would be easier not to be.

But I won't
Change myself for any person
I can't, and be comfortable with myself.

For those
I must leave behind
Thanks for all the memories.

But I must
March to a tune
You may not believe or understand.

By: Sherri

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR SINCERE APOLOGIES.

Due to an editorial problem, the series on
KNOW YOUR CHURCH will not be published this
month. We hope to begin the series in our
June, 1962 edition.



MY SHEPHERD

You are my shepherd
You guide me all the way.
You lovingly prod me to the right path,
You feed and care for me.

You are my shepherd
You give me life in its fullness.
You died so I shall never perish
You protect my life.

You are my shepherd
You rescue me from wolves;
You let me rest in peace
You heal my sickness.

You are my shepherd
You are not like people of today,
You will not abandon me
You will not let me be destroyed.

You are my shepherd
You promise showers of blessings,
You drive away the dangerous animals.
I shall live in safety and be not afraid.

By: Sherri

COME TO THE CABARET

Thank you cast and crew for your contributions to
the success of Cabaret, Saturday, April 24th.

It was a pleasure and a blessing to experience
the talents each of you shared with us that
evening.

DAILY GUIDE
TO
HAPPINESS

Pray:
It is the greatest power on earth.

Love:
It is a God given privilege.

Read:
It is the fountain of wisdom.

Think:
It is the source of power.

Be Friendly:
It is the road to happiness.

Give:
It is too short a day to be selfish.

Play:
It is the secret of perpetual youth.

Laugh:
It is the music of the soul.

Work:
It is the price of success.

Save:
It is the secret of security.



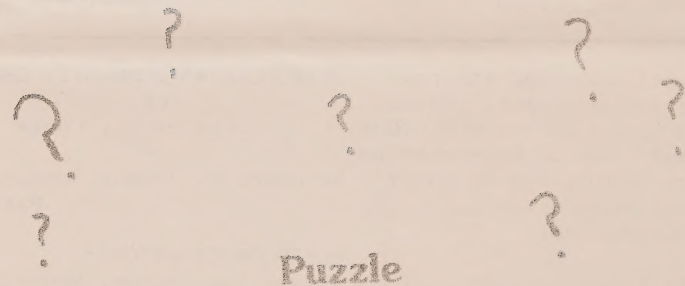
LIFE

What is life? Life is happiness
Or is life loneliness.

Maybe life is a mountain peak
It could be a valley low,
Well, life is serious

No, it is also like a circus
Life in general is exactly what we make of it
That is what life means to me.

by: Anthony T. Brant



WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SAYINGS
ARE FOUND IN THE BIBLE?

1. Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together.
2. Woe to that land that's govern'd by a child.
3. Is thy servant a dog that he should do this great thing?
4. Miserable comforters are ye all.
5. May Adam's apple lodge in thy throat.
6. Man did eat angels' food.
7. Wheels within wheels.
8. Of making many books there is no end.

DECLARATION OF FAITH

THE NEW LIGHT is a publication of the Metropolitan Community Church of Greater St. Louis, a chartered church of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Signed articles appearing in the publication reflect the opinion of the author and are not necessarily the view of MCC/St. Louis.

NEW LIGHT EDITOR: Lee O.

THE NEW LIGHT is a publication of the Metropolitan Community Church of Greater St. Louis, a chartered Church of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. WE invite all persons, regardless of age, national origin, race, socio-economic status, sexual preference, or religious persuasion, to share with us in our church life and community. All are welcome.

Rev. Tom Jordan

Pastor

Publication of the name of any business, person or group in THE NEW LIGHT shall not be construed as any indication of their religious or sexual orientation.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF
Greater St. Louis
Reverend P. Thomas Jordan,
Pastor

All contributions to THE NEW LIGHT will be greatly appreciated. Any current news items, articles, testimonies, original writing, should be received by the Editor by the fifteenth of each month.

Send to:

THE NEW LIGHT

M.C.C.,

5108 Waterman Ave.
St. Louis, MO. 63108

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Rev. Tom Jordan, Moderator
"JJ" Johnson, Vice Moderator
Donna B., Clerk
Ron Schnatzmeyer, Treasurer
Donna E.
Lisa Wagaman
Bill Weimer

Our faith is based upon the principles outlined in the historic creeds: Apostles' and Nicene.

WE BELIEVE:

IN ONE TRIUNE GOD, omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient, of one substance and of three persons: God - our Parent-Creator; Jesus Christ - the only begotten Son of God, God in flesh, human; and the Holy Spirit - God as our Sustainer.

That THE BIBLE IS THE DIVINELY INSPIRED WORD OF GOD, showing forth God to every person through the law and the prophets, and finally, completely and ultimately on earth in the being of Jesus Christ.

That JESUS...THE CHRIST...historically recorded as living some 2,000 years before this writing, is GOD INCARNATE, of human birth, fully God and fully human, and that by being one with God, Jesus has demonstrated once and forever that all people are likewise Children of God, being spiritually made in God's image.

That THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD making known God's love and interest to all people. The Holy Spirit is God, available to and working through all who are willing to place their welfare in God's keeping.

EVERY PERSON IS JUSTIFIED BY GRACE to God through faith in Jesus Christ.

WE ARE SAVED from loneliness, despair and degradation through God's gift of Grace, as was declared by our Saviour. Such grace is not earned, but is a pure gift from a God of pure love. We further commend the community of the faithful to a life of prayer; to seek genuine forgiveness for unkind, thoughtless and unloving acts; and to a committed life of Christian service.

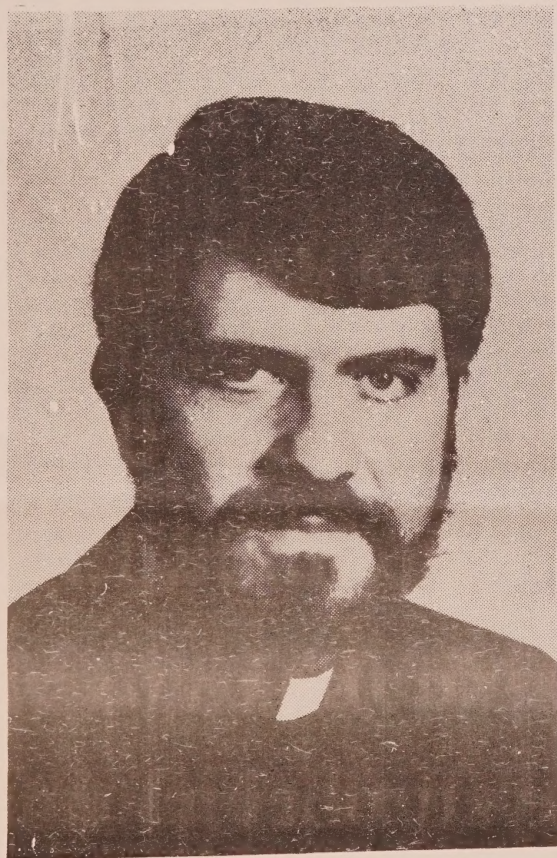
THE CHURCH SERVES to bring all people to God through Christ. To this end, it shall arrange for regular services of worship, prayer, interpretation of the Scriptures, and edification through the teaching and preaching of the Word.

THIS CHURCH EMBRACES TWO HOLY SACRAMENTS:

BAPTISM by water and the Spirit, as recorded in the Scriptures, shall be a sign of the dedication of each life to God and God's service. Through the words and acts of this sacrament, the recipient is identified as God's own Child.

HOLY COMMUNION is the partaking of blessed bread and fruit of the vine in accordance with the words of Jesus, our Sovereign, "This is my body...this is my blood." (Matthew 26:26-28.)

All who believe, confess and repent and seek God's love through Christ, after examining their consciences, may freely participate in the communal meal, signifying their desire to be received into community with Jesus Christ, to be saved by Jesus Christ's sacrifice, to participate in Jesus Christ's resurrection, and to commit their lives anew to the service of Jesus Christ.



Reverend Troy D. Perry

Spiritual Renewal with The Rev. Troy D. Perry Founder

Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

Sunday, May 30, 11:00 a.m.

(Regular Sunday Worship)

Sunday, May 30, 7:30 p.m.

(Healing Service)

Monday, May 31, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 1, 7:30 p.m.

**Metropolitan Community Church
of Greater St. Louis**

5108 Waterman Ave., St. Louis MO.

The Channel

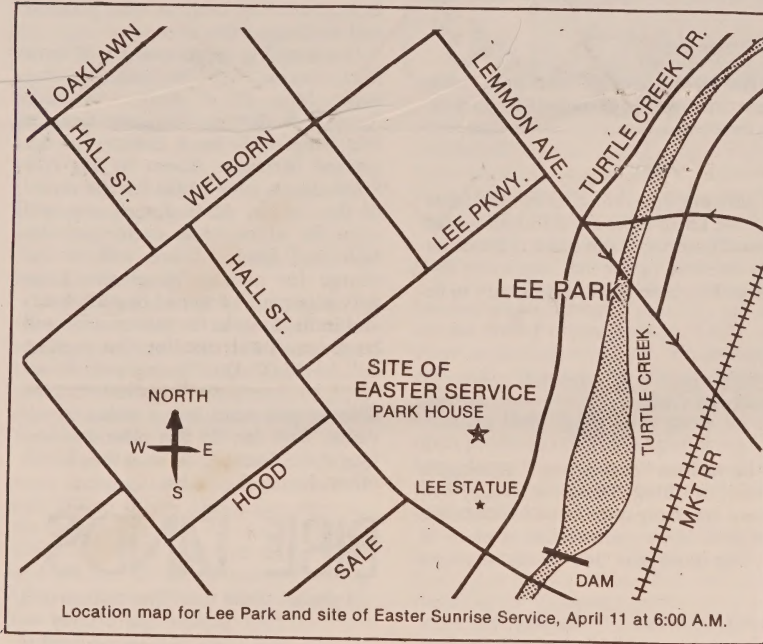
News from Metropolitan Community Church of Dallas

April 1982

Music of 'Messiah' to be featured

Special Holy Week Activities

Want
to Share
Your Love?
Involvement Sheet Enclosed!



Holy Week at MCC-Dallas will begin with Passion Sunday Worship services on *Palm Sunday*, April 4. The traditional distribution of palm branches will be observed.

The Choir and Orchestra will join together to present 14 favorite selections from Handel's *Messiah* in the evening service beginning at 7:15 P.M.

On Wednesday, April 7, the monthly Family Fellowship Pot-Luck Dinner will begin at 6:15 P.M. with the Yadseut Family Group serving the dinner. It will be followed by the Pastor's Family Service at 7:15 P.M. (see article elsewhere).

The Last Supper will be observed on *Maundy Thursday*, April 8 at 7:15. The ancient custom of foot washing will be done at this service.

Good Friday services and the traditional draping of the Cross will be on Friday, April 9, at 7:15 P.M.

Over 800 people attended last year's *Easter Sunday* services and this year we're expecting 1,000! The day's activities will begin with a 6:00 A.M. *Sunrise Service in Lee Park* followed by breakfast at Dallas' newest restaurant serving our community, **Fitzhugh North**, 2543 N. Fitzhugh, at 7:00 A.M. Since seating is limited you must make reservations with Sue in the church office if you would like to have breakfast with us. Reservations will be made on a first-come, first-served basis.

Both the Choir and the Orchestra will be featured in the 9:00 A.M. and the 11:00 A.M. worship services. Pastor Eastman will be preaching.

Many of you will want to place lillies in the chancel area in honor or memory of someone. Please pick them up at your favorite florist and bring them to the church during Holy Week. They will be used on Easter day and then available for you to take home. Those not picked up by Wednesday following Easter will be given to a local nursing facility for the elderly.

New Director of Pastoral Care

The person who will be taking Joan Wakeford's position of Director of Pastoral Care will be introduced to the congregation by Pastor Eastman at the April Family Fellowship night on Wednesday, April 7. The congregation will be given the opportunity to give a vote of confidence to the person named.

Fellowship Night

April's Family Fellowship night will begin at 6:00 P.M. with a pot luck dinner being served by the Yadseut Family Group. They are planning a full menu including the main dish but everyone attending is asked to bring a dish. If this is inconvenient, then a contribution of \$1.00 to help defray the cost of the main dish will be taken at the door. Whether you bring a dish or a

dollar, everyone is urged to eat with us.

Pastor's Family Service

A special highlight of the evening, in addition to the special appointment to be announced, will be the Pastor's Family Service during which the Pastor will discuss plans for a new building, possible re-location, the current financial status of the church and other items of interest to the congregation. A part of the evening will be given to a question and answer session with the Pastor.

Family Fellowship night is fast becoming one of the most important events on the monthly calendar of MCC-Dallas. You are urged to mark it on your calendar too. Don't miss this very special and important night.

Each is important, each has a place, each has opportunities.

Jesus said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."

The apostle Paul explains precisely how this is to occur. He writes in I Corinthians 12-14 (NAB) "The body is one and has many members, but all the members, many though they are, are one body; and so it is with Christ . . . Even those members of the body which seem less important are in fact indispensable . . . You, then are the body of Christ. Every one of you is a member of it."

The Church is the very identity of Christ in the world. And you, with your unique characteristics, are an important and indispensable part of that identity.

It is in this context that Paul also says, "There are different gifts but the same Spirit; there are different ministries but the same Lord; there are different works but the same God . . . To each person the manifestation of the spirit is given for the common good." And then, after strongly contending for that important element of love, he adds, "Since you have set your hearts on spiritual gifts, try to be rich in those that build up the church."

There is a specific place of ministry and there are enablisth spiritual gifts given to you as a member of the body of Christ.

In a recent series of sermons I discussed the various "charismata", grace-gifts of the Holy Spirit given to members of the body of Christ. There are twenty-five that I identified in scripture and I am sure there are many more to be found in the Church. The real challenge I see before us now is for each to find a place of fulfilling ministry and to discover — and develop those gifts God would choose to give us.

How can you find a place of ministry in MCC-Dallas? (By-the-way, the New Testament word for "ministry" is also translated "service") We have for the first time developed a comprehensive "Ministries Plan" this year. In seven ministry divisions there are presently more than 40 areas of service and more are being developed.

Beginning with the Channel, we will be division each month. cription of each op and how you can be the person in charge church office and information.

There are many needs that confront the Church, and each need is one more opportunity to prove the love of God and the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each of us is important, each has a place, each has opportunities, and each will be given special gifts to meet special needs.

Jesus said "I will build my Church . . ." How? **Christ is using the Church to build the Church.**

With love and concern for each one,

**Rev. Don Eastman
Pastor**

Rollercade Benefit Big Success

Over one hundred people attended the Star Lite Rollercade Skating Benefit last month. It was one of the biggest just-for-fun social events held in recent years at MCC-Dallas. In addition to the fun and fellowship (and one sprained ankle), the Social Activities raised \$129.00 for refurbishing the Social Hall area. A special thanks to Henry Green and Ray Lawson who planned and co-chaired this event.

The next big social event will be a Bingo Barbeque to be held Saturday evening May 15 at Reverchon Park Recreation Center. The only cost for this event will be a charge for the catered barbeque dinner by Big Al's Smokehouse plus \$1.00 for the rental of the center. After dinner, we will clear the tables for an evening of old-fashioned bingo. There will be no charge for playing bingo and some very nice prizes donated by merchants and individuals in the community will be given. Total cost for the evening will be \$5.00. Due to city park board rules, no money can be collected at the door so you must buy a ticket in advance. You can do this after any service at the Social Hour or at the church office during the week.

BIBLE LANDS

A dream come true! The chance of a lifetime! Your golden opportunity — yes, this and more will be realized if you join our group on the "Tour of the Holy Lands." Reverend Eastman's frequent announcements about the Bible lands tour outline an exciting experience: Dallas MCC and Houston MCC are joining forces to make up a tour group departing for Jordan, Israel, Sinai and Egypt on June 12, returning on June 24. Rev. Eastman from Dallas and Rev. Lamb from Houston will be the group leaders. Llama Tours of Tulsa (not associated with Monty Python) is making the arrangements including travel, hotel, food, guides, and gratuities, for \$1,700.

If this has whetted your travel appetite, we will be glad to send you an information packet. Contact Darrel Murray or Sue Schrader at Dallas Metropolitan Community Church, 526-6221, or phone 821-4214 after 5:00 P.M. But don't delay; the absolute deadline for final arrangements is May 21!

**You
can find
a place
of ministry . . .**

next issue of the featuring a ministry Included will be a desportunity for service come involved. Contact of that Division or the you'll receive additional

April Outstanding Layperson: David Anderson

A lot of people spend a lot of hours working behind the scenes to insure that we have beautiful, comfortable and usable space for worship, training, and, in general, doing the work God has called us to here in our community. Few, if any, spend more time — and expend more energy — than "the Dragon," as David Anderson is affectionately known. However, seeing that the light bulbs are working, the baptistry filled, the burglar system and the phones functioning, are just a few of his many tasks as Division Head for Property Management. David wears a bunch of other hats at MCC-Dallas, too.

He was born in Palestine (Texas, that is, lest anyone get the wrong idea!), spent part of his childhood in Artesia, New Mexico, and then established his home in Dallas in 1964.

David was elected to the Board of Directors of MCC-Dallas soon after joining the church in 1977. Since that time he has served in just about every position available including preaching the sermon at last month's Fellowship Family Service.

As a member of the Board, he has been in charge of the Social Committee and liaison to the Music Department. He has served as Assistant Church Clerk as well as usher, choir member, and teacher of Membership Training Classes. Representing MCC-Dallas, he has been a Lay delegate to the South Central District Conferences and to General Conferences in Los Angeles and Houston.

For the past four years David has been a family group leader, first establishing the Tuesday Night group from which several other groups have been formed including the Thursday night group which he now leads. As a family group leader, he presently serves on the Family Group Leader's Council.

In 1979, he directed the Fellowship Follies which netted more than \$12,000 for MCC-Dallas.

Currently, he's serving on the New Building and Interiors committee and the local church By-Laws Committee. Occasionally (not nearly often enough) we are blessed with his special music in services.

Asked what he sees as our congregation's biggest problem, in his usual quick, candid style he responds, "the fact that we're growing in numbers but

not in strength of commitment."

The most important lesson he's learned: "... that Christianity is not theology or philosophy, but an experience — the ultimate life experience."

Our biggest fault, according to "the gospel of the Dragon": "... that we're

all too quick to judge; that we don't realize if we don't give other people room to grow, we can't expect them to give us the space we need."

We love you, Dragon, and appreciate your tireless efforts. In fact, it makes us proud to name you our outstanding layperson this month!



By George!

The chance for Christian growth really begins with a commitment. Most of us make that commitment when we accept Christ as our own **personal** savior. The real significance of that occurs as a spiritual baptism - which is then symbolized by a water baptism. From that point on, we as Christians are making a long walk toward full maturity. That full maturity comes, in my view, when we are in full unity with Christ, reconciled beyond death and to an eternal life in Christ.

Our walk is characterized by the places we go and the things that we do, and those are **very much** influenced by who we "follow" and what we learn.

So frequently I hear people (some in our church) speak passionately (and with condemnation) about a previous religious demonination, or one that they have certain strong feelings about. These passionate expressions reflect what (in my view) is childish rebellion. We **should** be leading the way toward reconciliation and understanding. We should be praising God for the **Good** things we have learned, and received. Thank God for those gifts that God and Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit have given us to use — many of which have been based upon previous religious experiences - in other churches (or denominations), now brought more fully into focus through UFMCC. Now released for full use through the liberty of Christ and scriptural "WHOSOEVER", which was God's plan from the beginning.

When we spend energy and effort to condemn or destructively criticize, we are not progressing in our Christian walk. It's more like we are flailing our arms and kicking at fetters, rather than seeking nourishing spiritual food and performing constructive spiritual exercise to build stronger and better spiritual muscles.

I believe that in infinite wisdom, our Lord permits opportunities for spiritual exercise, particularly when we show little spiritual growth. Controversy and administering the Church program are two such opportunities. We can retreat into a similar position as that which others took with us (one of condemning, without understanding or basis) or we can study, and share, and grow.

I believe that inclusive language is a real tool for our defining what is our personal statement of belief. Sharing with others what we believe, and what is essential to our belief, can strengthen our faith. We also are at liberty to hear, to care, and to grow when others present thoughts which are, or become, meaningful to us in our definition of our own beliefs. We are sharing in growth.

Nowhere do I see a better chance for growth than in the experiences and worship of the Church. Such experiences as membership/inquirers class, Bible study, Fellowship Families and other related Church activities are excellent opportunities. So are District and General Conference. These latter also offer fantastic chance for growth and sharing. As a result we better define our individual role in letting others know the message of Christ, for everyone. Whether that calls us to be an out-front "radical" Christian, or a more subtle "passive evangelist."

When these opportunities arise, take part. When controversy arises, when administrative needs are made known, seek God's counsel - and then **participate**. Be ready to grow — be ready to receive — and be ready to use your gifts that our Beloved Jesus will be served. Use the enthusiasm of your newly found strength, tempered by wisdom, to live the abundant life that Christ has promised. Encourage and allow others to seek and to find their life, abundant, too. And the Glory of God shall surely shine around and through us in a testimony which will not be denied...

By George Kennedy

CHAPTER 28

MATTHEW

EARLY on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to the tomb.

2 Suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled aside the stone and sat on it.

3 His face shone like lightning and his clothing was a brilliant white.

4 The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and fell into a dead faint.

5 Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be frightened!" he said, "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified,

6 But He isn't here! For He has come back to life again, just as He said He would. Come in and see where His body was lying . . .

7 And now, go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and that He is going to Galilee to meet them there. That is my message to them."

8 The women ran from the tomb, badly frightened, but also filled with joy, and rushed to find the disciples to give them the angel's message.

16 Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had said they would find Him.

17 There they met Him and worshiped Him—but some of them weren't sure it really was Jesus!

18 He told His disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and earth.

19 Therefore go and make disciples in all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 And then teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you; and be sure of this—that I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

District Conference in San Antonio

Interchange of ideas and review of Christian endeavors by concerned laypersons and clergy through a "sharing/caring center" concept promise to make the upcoming South Central District Conference in San Antonio, TX one of the most exciting and productive Conferences to date. Scheduled May 21-23, it will be held at the EL TROPICANA HOTEL.

The Sharing/Caring Center is primarily a visual communications presentation in three areas: 1) Poster Presentations for each group in the District to share their best programs and research in the form of print, graphics, and audio-visual displays. 2) Photography Competition (also open to the community as well as District members) for photos that tell the story of someone who cares. 3) Professional exhibitors will have space rented to them so they may display and sell their products and artistic talents.

While awards for the poster and photographic presentation will be made in the form of cash and prizes, the greatest reward will be being able to share many diverse talents and use them to the glory of Jesus Christ.

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Rev. Belle Pellegrino
Worship Coordinator

Nov. 6th, 1982

Dear Sisters and Brothers In Christ;

In response to the Northeast District Conference (Oct.29th-31st) directive, a committee is being formed to create/assemble a set of District by-laws and S.O.P. We invite each group to send no more than two interested individuals (Lay or Clergy) to serve with us on this committee.

Please send names and addresses of interested people to: Rev. Belle Pellegrino, 315 10th Street, Troy, New York 12180, by Jan. 1, 1983.

Yours In Christ,

Rev. Belle A. Pellegrino

Rev. Belle A. Pellegrino
Worship Coordinator
Metropolitan Community Church
of Albany

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Sunburst

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December

1982

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PASTOR'S COLUMN

Pastor's Column - "TWO SPIRITS"

It's kind of strange to be writing about "having the Christmas spirit" when it is still two weeks until Thanksgiving (Sunburst deadline and all that). And yet, for many people "the Christmas spirit" has everything to do with dates and time.

Until some people start shopping for Christmas gifts, bake cookies, plan parties, for trim a Christmas tree, there is no way for them to get into "the Christmas spirit". Some are able to achieve that feeling well in advance of the holiday, while for others it isn't until the last moment (perhaps Christmas Eve) that the birth of the Christ child has any impact in their life.

I would like to put forth the theory that the difficulty one faces of getting into "the Christmas spirit" is due to the fact that one does not possess a "Christian spirit" the whole year long. There seems to be those who are filled with the Holy Spirit 365 days a year and then there are those who for a twenty-four hour period enjoy a Christmas spirit in their life - if there are enough presents, parties, food, and gifts. The year-round spirit-filled folk don't seem to depend what-so-ever on superficial elements in order to be in a Christmas Spirit because it has become a way of life to them.

Not only do they feel it all year long, they also feed it, and share it so that at Christmas time there is always plenty to enjoy. It's almost like belonging to a spiritual Christmas club, but instead of saving money to buy gifts, one reaps the dividends of spiritual blessings with more than enough to invest in ministry to others. An off-handed test might be the enthusiasm with which one sings "Joy To The World" in the middle of July.

This Christmas season I pray that we might all concentrate on developing a spirit that will last for all of 1983 in the form of an operative Christian spirit in our lives. My precious sisters and brothers in Christ - may the Lord bless you, one and all!

Pastor John



The Christmas Season brings with it a multiplicity of feelings for many people. It could be joy or sadness, peace or anxiety, friends and family or loneliness and solitude. We need to keep in mind that everyone relates to the Holidays in very individual ways.

The Anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ should be an occasion of joy and celebration. Jesus was the gift of God --the "Word made flesh" given to us so that we might know God in our lives and have our salvation made complete. Jesus Christ became human, and in that form taught, counseled, directed, led, fed, encouraged, healed, preached, prayed, worshipped, and loved PEOPLE.

The finest gift that we could give others this year is to live Christ...live like Christ and in Christ, live through Christ and with Christ.

Jesus has invited each of us to the Birthday celebration and we are all accepted as worthy of participation. All colors, sizes, shapes, and types of us are included. If we could each make that little extra effort to reach out and touch one another with the love of Jesus, then the Holiday Season could be happier for all.

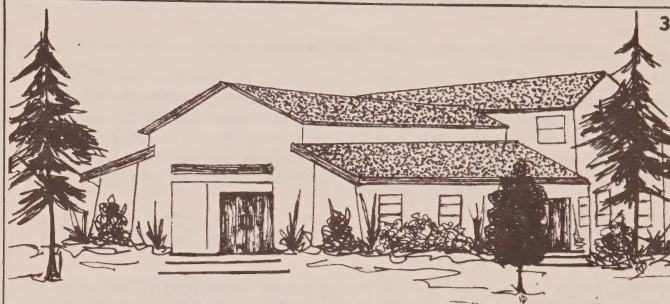
Slow down this year and take time to realize that what we are celebrating is the love, hope, peace, and joy that Jesus Christ brought to us 2000 years ago. It is a gift given to us so that we can give it away. It never grows old or out of style.

*A most Blessed
and love-filled
Christmas to you -
Frankye*



HOURS:
NOON-2 A.M.
SAT.
NOON-3 A.M.

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The SUNBURST

The Official Publication of THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
 Metropolitan Community Church - 330 SW 27th St, Ft. Lauderdale,
 33315. Phone: 462-2004

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The SUNBURST is a part of our church's ministry. We welcome contributions from all members and friends of our church. All contributions will be accepted and may be published in the current or future issues, or filed for possible publication.

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1/4 page \$ 5.00	1/4 page \$ 6.00
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TEST YOUR S. Q.

After being told that there was "no point in talking about the Stewardship Program, since everyone knows every detail," I decided to test that statement. I put together this multiple-choice test with which you can measure your S. Q. - your Stewardship quotient. Being mean and vindictive by nature, I made all questions terribly difficult. Let me know how you fare!

1. In a resort area like this, no one is interested in hearing about responsibility or commitment. Therefore, how can we best support our church programs?

- A) Send out a whining letter every month threatening to stop our TV broadcasts and close our college unless a big contribution is received immediately.
- B) Have Bingo every night, a yard sale every month, and charge ten to fifteen dollars for every weekend social.
- C) Sponsor a Stewardship Program emphasizing responsibility and commitment, so the bulk of our income is from the collection plate.

2. What is the best way to make the Pledge Card, the key element of the Stewardship Program, stand out?

- A) Place Bible verses on the card, so everyone will know it is a sacred document?
- B) Develop an eye-catching logo, with mod lettering to show the Beautiful People that it is "in" to contribute.
- C) Make it simple and functional and tell participants not to use it until they have decided to support the church.

3. How can we best impress upon people that signing the card is an important, irrevocable, moral and legal obligation?

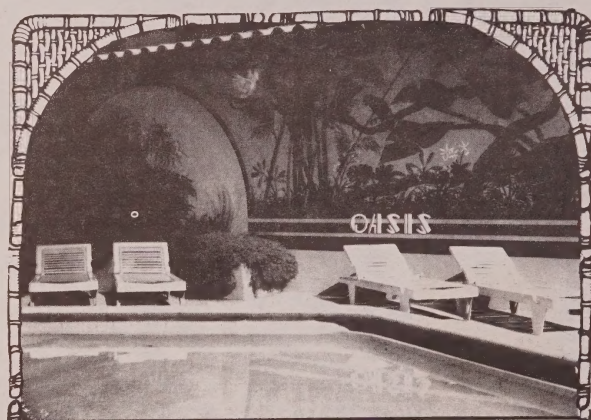
- A) Tell everyone it must be signed upon an open Bible.
- B) Have a friend of the church who is a Notary available after services to notarize signatures of pledgers and witnesses.
- C) Spend an extra couple of hours designing the card so there is absolutely no room for a signature.

4. How can we guarantee the Program will provide the required funds?

- A) Pre-print all cards with "I pledge to give \$10.00 per week".
- B) Take a confidential survey of the annual salaries of the congregation. Provide personalized Pledge Cards with the amount filled in based on each person's ability to pay.
- C) Leave blanks for the amount and frequency of contribution. Ask each participant to decide how to fill the blanks.

5. That won't be adequate unless everyone is forced to join the program. How should that be done?

- A) Make a two-part membership card. Only apply the Church Seal



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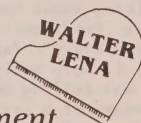
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after the Pledge Card portion has been torn off, signed and returned.

B) Produce a master list and check off the names as the pledges come in. Have Finance Committee members contact anyone whose card is late.

C) Design a program to meet most people's needs and provide full information about it to as many people as possible.

6. The Romans believed in Bread and Circuses. What is the best way for us to dramatize the vital Return of the Pledge Card?

A) On Stewardship Sunday play "Is Your All on the Altar?" while everyone comes up and places their cards on the communion table.

B) Throw a special Stewardship Program Dinner for the whole church. Take individual photographs as each person hands their card to the Pastor.

C) Ask participants to drop the card in the offering plate or hand it to a member of the Finance Committee sometime before their December meeting.

7. Once we launch the program, it must be stringently monitored so nothing goes wrong. How can we make everyone acutely self-conscious while the offering is being collected?

A) Hire big, sharp eyed ushers. Have them return the plate to anyone who doesn't drop in the required ten dollars.

B) Print the names of last week's 10 most generous donors in the Sunday bulletin under the heading "How do YOU Measure Up"?

C) Provide all participants with identical envelopes so that all contributions look exactly the same.

8) Despite our best efforts, some people might fall behind on their pledges. How can we show these shirkers we mean business?

A) Make the Pastor call anyone who is three weeks behind to tell them how concerned we are that they aren't contributing.

B) Post large charts with Sunday dates across the top and names down the side. Give everyone a Gold Star each time they contribute. Exhort everyone not to break the "Chain of Stars".

C) Provide quarterly statements so participants can check their records. If people stop contributing for a quarter, quietly drop them from the program.

9. Even with the dynamite program outlined above, people will get bored in a couple of years. How can we make the program new and exciting each year?

A) Purchase a new Stewardship Program from a different denomination each year.

B) Change as many superficial details as possible each year. Say that this year's program is "New and Improved!".

C) Announce that you are renewing last year's successful pro-

gram this year. Change the Pledge Card color so the Stewardship Program Coordinator doesn't get hopelessly confused.

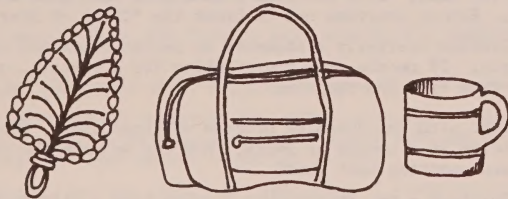
10. What percentage of the congregation will support a program like the one described?

- A) Less than 35 percent.
- B) Between 35 and 75 percent.
- C) Over 75 percent.

Bob Horton
Stewardship Program Coordinator

Church Yard Sale & Auction
Sat. Dec. 4
Yard Sale 9am-2pm
Auction 730pm

Please contact the Social Comm.
for information concerning
helping or donations.



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

A beautiful letter thanking us for the SUNBURST COOKBOOK we had sent her from Lovedy Gilbert, the mother of Rev. Joseph Gilbert, pastor of MCC St. Petersburg. About five years ago when Clary and I visited churches out west we fell in love with Lovedy and she became our MCC mother. Joe and I have lots of fun talking about "our mother." At the same time we discovered that Rev. Fred Pattison, pastor of MCC Phoenix lived two blocks away from Clary's family in Brooklyn. Lovedy (name should be LOVELY) is very active in "Parents of Gays." The day she wrote me she was telling me that she was about to write a letter to the parents of a Lesbian member of her church who have a problem accepting their daughter being gay. She is also corresponding with the parents of two gay members. Joe's mother is surely doing the Lord's work. The second Sunday of each month they hold services in a nursing home and many of the young members entertain the older folks.

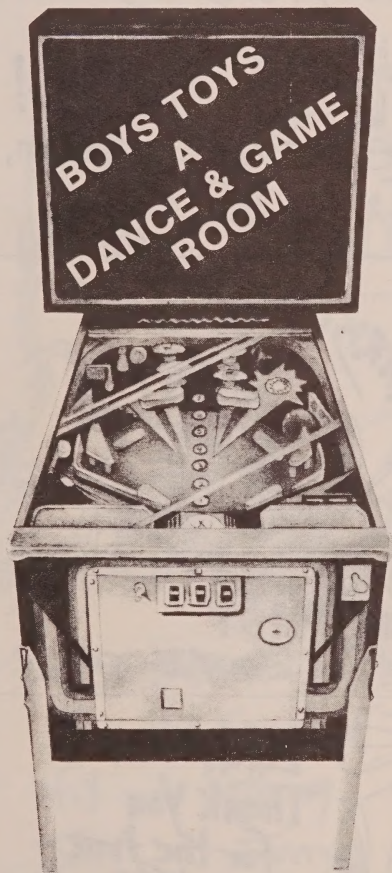
MCC, MIAMI: Deacon Mike N. (formerly a member of our church) has started "The Hoppers" an outreach to the bars-discos. Hopper members will be wearing their special T shirts with the logo on the front and a message on the back inviting people to come to their Wednesday night dinners. TERRIFIC IDEA MIKE! Miami MCC combined their Thanksgiving services and dinner with the Robertson Church. . .this creates a marvelous feeling of understanding each other.

GOOD SHEPHERD PARRISH/MCC CHICAGO: I recently saw some facts and figures on their pledge program . . . and I must admit I was a little embarrassed with our record of 1982. During their Stewardship drive they are planning six parties being held in members homes during which they will be asked to make a pledge for 1983. The committee is checking the feasibility of making automatic transfers of pledges from members bank accounts if they wish.

MCC CINCINNATI: They meet at an Episcopal Church. It is a beautiful building and fantastic sanctuary. The Episcopal Church even shares the large sign in front of the church with Metropolitan Community Church in beautiful letters.

The New Freedom Evangelistic Team, the bus ministry that travels Canada and the U.S. needed a music teacher. The Lord gave them Mark Hobart from the Church of the Holy Spirit in Des Moines, Iowa. He is a patient, kind soul that was willing to help the team develop its talents. He traveled with them for three weeks and developed their voices and they realized their musical potential as a Gospel group. The Rev. Elder Freda Smith who visited us a couple of months ago is the newest member of the Board of Directors of the New Freedom Evangelistic Team.

Jim Corrigan



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Mondays - December 6, 13, 20, and 27
7:30 PM - The Oscar Wilde Gay Chorus Rehearsal

Tuesdays - December 7 and 21
8 PM - Straight Partners

Tuesdays - December 14 and 28
8 PM - Gay Partners

Wednesdays - December 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29
8:30 PM - A.A.

Wednesdays - December 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29
8:30 PM - Al-Anon

Thursdays - December 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30
8 PM - Thursday Night Womyn's Group

Sundays - December 5, 12, 19, and 26
6:30 PM - A.A.

MONTHLY PRAYER LIST:

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Christmas with one another
 The Birth of our Saviour
 Thelma's visit with us
 Our health
 The spiritual unity and maturity in our church
 The music program of our church

Prayers of Petition

All those who are afflicted with cancer and other diseases
 A "Christian" Spirit-Filled Christmas
 Those seeking employment or housing
 Hurting relationships
 Those who desire to have a relationship

ATTENTION CHRISTIANS

Once again this year we have the opportunity to follow the example of Christ by reaching out to those in need. South Florida State Hospital has once again sent us a list of items that the people in the hospital will need in order to have a Christmas this year.

We would like to make this a special family project this year, so let's all join together and create some smiling faces. This is our way of showing that the spirit of Christ is still alive.

Listed below are a few items that we can give to this project:

Combs, soap, tooth brushes, cologne, underwear, writing paper, envelopes, caps for men and women, wallets, jeans, purses, radio batteries (9 volt), sneakers.

These are just a few items. There are many other things that can be given. Please see any of the deacons for further information.

Jack Mc

my CHURCH family,
 merry CHRISTmas



HAPPY new year
 glad tidings!
 great joy!
 Christ is Born,
 Nancy



Lord,
 Thank You
 for the true
 gifts
 of
 Christmas.
 Merry Christmas
 Love, Willard



May the Spirit of Jesus
fill you with joy.

John Frankye Jerry Kerry Jack

Guesthouse in Downtown Fort Lauderdale

Phone: 527-4900

215

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Hazel Newton

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Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312

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- WALKING DISTANCE TO BARS

SHARING THE GOOD LIFE

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, let us reflect on the Good Life that the Prince of Peace made possible through his suffering. Let us remember that it is he who has brought joy, love and peace to our hearts, our minds and our lives.

As we are making our Christmas list and checking it twice, let us remember to share our Good Life with others. Many gifts will be exchanged this Christmas. Diamonds, gold, silver, TVs, cars, clothing, and appliances; all costing much money and beyond the reach of many of us. Yet, each of us can afford to give an unlimited quantity of the most wonderful gifts---a smile, a bit of love, a helping hand, a bit of happiness---to each person we meet the whole month of December. If everyone did that, wouldn't we all have the most joyous, happy and wonderful Christmas ever?

On behalf of all of us on the SUNBURST staff, and all our contributors, may you have a loving, peaceful and joyous Christmas and the happiest, most healthy New Year ever.

Dave Bellini

Editor

P.S. At press time, we learned that our beloved Jim Corrigan was hospitalized after a car accident. He is in no danger and only has a few cracked ribs. Our prayers are with him for a speedy recovery.

CHURCH BOOKSTORE NEWS:

Just in time for Christmas....the Bookstore has a selection of Christmas ornaments, each one is \$3.00 and they are engraved with the words "God Loves Gays". They are definitely not like the ones you will find in the local card shops. The Ornaments are a Fund-Raising Project for the Spiritual Growth and Clergy Care Center in Orlando. Rev. Nancy Radclyffe has started this center to care for and nourish clergy of our fellowship, so that they may remain healthy, vibrant, spirit-filled people. Please take one home to put on your tree this year.

In the jewelry case are two new crosses, gold tone, 4½ inches long. They come with either a descending dove, or a figure of the Risen Christ. They make good stocking stuffers and come in red flocked boxes for gift giving.

I have just a few 14K gold crosses....cost is \$140, same as last year. If you would like one please see me now. If gold is too expensive for you, take time to look at the Sterling Silver ones. My favorite is the Celtic Cross depicting some of the great people from Scripture...Daniel David, Timothy, Paul, and Jacob.

Sterling rings can be ordered in sizes to fit, but it takes time to get them....Order early.

Best love and wishes for a very happy holiday season.

Frankye

2225 N. University Dr. Bldg. 0
Pembroke Pines, FL 33024

Broward: 962-5599
Dade: 945-5402

NEW CONCEPT THERAPY
AL THOMAS, M.S.

Psychotherapist
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Adolescent

Alternate Lifestyles
Graphology



*A simple wish...
that you may find
joy at
Christmas.*

LESBIAN COUPLES GAY MALE COUPLES GROUP THERAPY SERIES

**ISSUES:**

Communication of Feelings, Commitment, Conflict Resolution, Creating Support Systems, Aging and Image, Sexual Fidelity, Financial and Emotional Responsibilities and Interdependency.

DURATION:

Eight Weeks

FACILITATORS:

Gay and Lesbian Therapists

FEES:

Sliding Scale

DATES:

Gay Males Group

Lesbian Group

(Thursday 7:30 to 9 PM)

(Wednesday 7:30 to 9 PM)

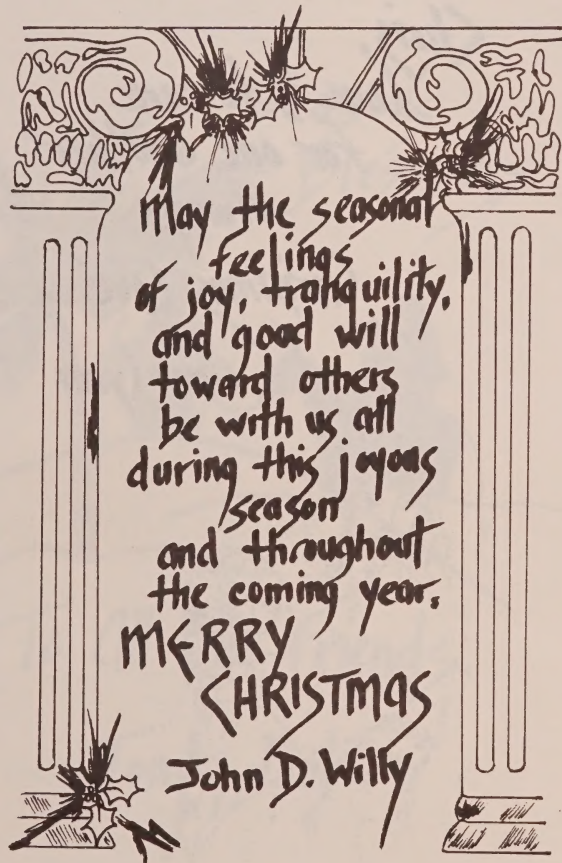
LOCATION:

Private mental health clinic, Plantation, Florida

FOR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION CALL:

Marta M. Miranda
792-5030 Broward
947-5019 Dade

or Andy
524-7450 Broward



Christmas Blessings
The Board
of Directors





Matthew
5:16

There is a message I wish to write
And though I try with all my might
The words seem to have taken flight
And the message just doesn't focus into light.

The feeling is deep in my heart
And from there it will not depart
It hit my mind just a dart
For one, you know who you art.

With you the hours and days go swiftly by
Slow them down with every effort I try
A warm, loving, caring all around terrific guy
You're a gift from God from on high.

TO A SPECIAL FRIEND

Happy Holidays to all.

Larry Sams



Merry
CHRISTMAS

LOVE
IN
CHRIST,
JACK

Chris,
Love is to care
for one another
always.
Christmas Love,
Annolynn



Season's
Blessings



To All Our Friends.

Tony & Bob

To my MCL Family,
CHRISTMAS
TOUCHES
HEAVEN TO EARTH.

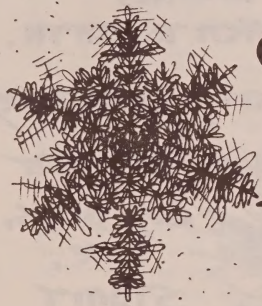


MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR
GOD BLESS,
LOVE,
STUART

O Holy Night



All my love
to my friends in Christ.
Harry B.



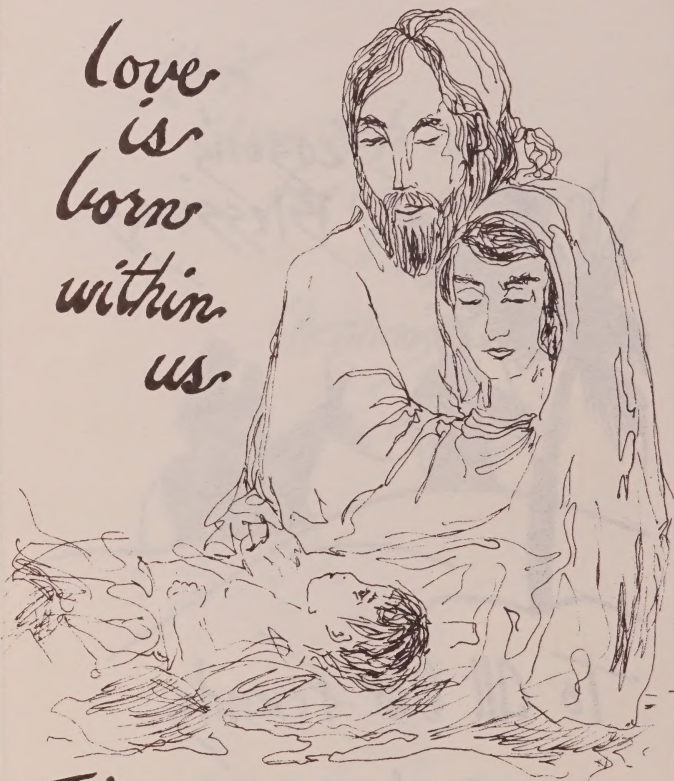
Christmas is.
above all.
a gift of
oneself.
Thank you all
for giving of
yourselves.

And thank you -
Twila & Ginnie
for your
special caring.

Casey



Love
is
born
within
us.



John.
Christmas is a gentle season
as is the love we share.
Thank you God for bringing us
together. Jack



I WISH TO THANK EVERYONE FOR ALL THE
GIFTS, VISITS AND PRAYERS DURING MY
RECENT HOSPITAL STAY. THANK YOU ALL
FOR YOUR CARE AND LOVE.

IN CHRIST'S LOVE,
LOU NAGY



May the music of
Christ
fill your heart.



Merry Christmas,
Twila & Ginnie

Peace
to you on Christmas...



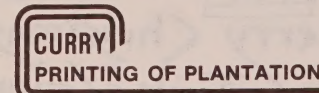
and everyday of
the New Year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:30 PM Mid-week Worship - Dwane Ream	2 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8 PM Advent Study	3 OPEN EVENING	4 9 AM Semi-Annual Yard Sale until 2 PM 7:30 PM Auction
5 11 AM Worship Rev. Gill Preach 8 PM Worship Jack McConnell, Preaching	6 7:30 PM Social Committee Meeting	7 8 PM Holy Spirit Singers	8 7:30 PM Mid-week Worship - John Gill	9 7 PM Chancel Choir 8 PM Advent Study	10 OPEN EVENING SUNBURST DEADLINE	11 10 AM Church Work Party 8 PM Prepared Ham Dinner & Trim the tree Party \$5 Don.
12 11 AM Worship, Rev. Gill Preach 12:30 Publicity Committee 8 PM Worship Rev. Gill, Preach	13 OPEN EVENING	14 6:30 PM Pastoral Staff Meeting 8 PM Board of Directors Meet	15 7:30 PM Mid-week Worship - Jack Gregg	16 7 PM Chancel Choir 8 PM Advent Study	17 OPEN EVENING	18 OPEN EVENING
19 11 AM Worship Rev. Gill, Preach 8 PM Worship Rev. Gill, Preach	20 8 PM Finance Committee Meeting	21 7 PM Sunburst Assembly 8 PM Holy Spirit Singers	22 7:30 PM Mid-week Worship - Kerry Dunlavy	23 6:30 PM Music Committee 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8 PM Advent Study	24 9 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion Worship Frankye White 11 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion Worship Rev. John Gill	25 CHRISTMAS 2-5 PM Christmas Dinner at the Church
26 11 AM Worship Frankye White, Preaching 8 PM Worship Jerry Mitchell, Preaching	27 8 PM Buildings & Grounds Committee Meet.	28 8 PM Holy Spirit Singers	29 7:30 PM Mid-week Worship - Karen T.	30 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	31 8 PM New Year's Eve Worship - Rev. Gill	



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is a
gift
from Jesus.

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Metropolitan Community Church

65 East Hollister Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

THE REVEREND HOWARD J. GAASS, PASTOR

September 1980

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C
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N
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TO: ALL CLERGY

This is to inform you that, as of January 1, 1981, Reverend Howard Gaass will be relinquishing his pastoral responsibilities at Metropolitan Community Church of Cincinnati.

A Pastoral Search Committee has been established to identify clergy who might be interested in relocating.

Metropolitan Community Church of Cincinnati has been chartered for over six years, with a solid congregational base; and with an operating budget of over \$20,000 per year. Perhaps the most distinguishing characteristic of this congregation is it's extremely close relationship with The Church of Our Saviour (Episcopal). For example, not only are physical facilities shared, but members of M.C.C. are currently serving as Vestry persons in the Episcopal Church - and throughout the year we have numerous shared services.

If you would like additional information relative to this vacancy, please contact Ms. Lou Dale, Chairperson for the Pastoral Search Committee, at the above address.

FROM: THE PASTORAL
SEARCH COMMITTEE

Phone: (513) 241-8216

UPMCC

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

SEPT

REPORT FOR ~~SEPT~~ 1980

OCT. 8, 1980

BANK BALANCE

~~2744.95~~

2744.95

INCOME:

Tithes	1165.50
Other	<u> </u>
TOTAL INCOME	1165.50

YTD

10884.75
<u>3085.75</u>
13970.50

BUDGETED

8250
<u>1837</u>
10087

EXPENSES:

Travel	30.00
Telephone	32.87
Prison	46.95
Salary	350.00

3765.29

2475

624.12

913

540.30

737

3850.00

3850

Office

241.90

Bookkeeper

40.00

435.00

440

Secretary

200.00

187

Supplies

409.78

187

Postage

36.39

440.54

275

Conference

200.00

Gifts and Grants

Gov't Structure

274.68

275

Samaritan

400.00

363

Social Action

163.00

New Works

380.38385

TOTAL EXPENSES

536.21

11924.99

10087

629.29

Behind in Tithes:

Albuquerque

May

June

July

August

Fresno

~~August~~

August

WestBay

August

~~San Gabriel~~~~August~~

February 1st, 1983

Dear Colleagues in Christ,

This letter is hopefully an opportunity to assist you in your ministry. There is currently a book available But Lord They're Gay written by Rev. Sylvia Pennington, pastor of the Lambda Christian Fellowship. As with any book it doesn't minister to everyone. However, I have seen it have a specific and exciting ministry to those people who seem to have a greater struggle with coming into a positive Christian gay identity than others.

The author is a heterosexual woman who having once had a ministry trying to convert gays to being "normal" found herself, on a spiritual journey becoming a minister within and for the gay and lesbian community. The book describes this journey and includes five personal accounts of gays who came in to a positive Christian and gay identity.

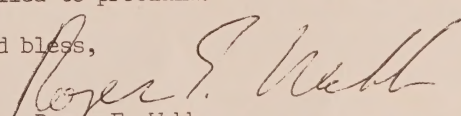
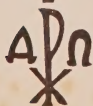
I recommend this book not only as one of the five persons in the book but as a clergy member who has seen some of our more oppressed people respond to its liberating effect.

I would ask you or if you do not have the time, someone else in your community to read it. This would allow for consideration as an additional resource to your counselling or bookstore.

Sylvia is currently maintaining a busy schedule going around the United States and Canada in response to the book. She is always delighted to accept additional opportunities for ministry through raps, teaching, preaching or whatever it takes to reach out to some of our more damaged people.

I would ask you place this book high on your priorities. It has been found to be an effective complement to counselling where time does not always permit or our style does not seem to reach, those from the evangelical and/or charismatic background. My experience has been these people from these parts of the Body of Christ struggle harder at times than others with guilt and resistance to the liberating message of Jesus Christ MCC is called to proclaim.

God bless,


Rev. Roger E. Webb
Assistant Pastor

The Channel

News from Metropolitan Community Church of Dallas

September Issue

Symbolism in Baptism

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost" Matthew 28:19

The first that many of us had heard about baptism was the reference of Jesus being baptised by John the Baptist. But often people do not realize that John's baptism was based on Jewish teaching. It was the baptism of repentance. God continually spoke to the Israelites telling them to wash as a part of the cleansing from sin. Isaiah 1:16 says, "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil." It was the acknowledgement of sin and the promise to follow God's law. Some of those that John baptised asked how they live from then on and he gave them specific instructions depending on their professions in Luke chapter 3.

Baptism has taken on added meaning for Christians as have many other practices that have their roots in the Old Testament. Baptism now is still an acknowledgement of our inability to live perfect lives on our own and repentance for sin in our lives. But the symbolic cleansing of the water is a sign of our acceptance of Jesus' sacrifice as the cleansing power in our lives that truly changes us into new creatures.

There are two basic modes of baptism. One is by immersion, the other by sprinkling or pouring water on the person's head. Both have scriptural basis and incorporate the symbolic washing that announces to the world that the believer has accepted Jesus' blood for the cleansing from sin.

Immersion symbolism is described by Paul in Romans 6:3-4 and Colossians 2:12. As you are laid down into the water your old nature is buried as Jesus was laid in the tomb after his crucifixion. Then as you are raised the old nature is left behind and you rise from the death of sin as a child of God as Christ was raised from the dead in an immortal body. But this is only symbolic of the true change that has already taken place in your heart and life.

Ezekiel prophesied the coming of the Messiah and in Ezekiel 36:25-26 he gives a promise. "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you . . ." This is the promise of new life to come through Christ.

The important thing is not the form that the symbol takes but that there is a change in your life through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ.



**Metropolitan
Community Church
of Dallas**
2701 Reagan
Phone 214-526-6221

NOT A SIN NOT A SICKNESS

THE BIBLE AND HOMOSEXUALITY

A Series by Rev. Don Eastman

Tape 1 — "The Truth Shall Set You Free"

Tape 2 — Genesis 19 - "Sodom Revisited"

Tape 3 — Leviticus 18 - "What's An Abomination?"

**Tape 4 — Romans 1, 1 Corinthians 6 -
"When in Rome..."**

Four Cassettes - \$20 Set

A Parting Message

Time is like money. Each minute, each hour, each day is the "coin of the realm" that God gives us. We can waste it and look back seeing only emptiness. We can spend it and then view our purchases as unsuspected treasures or over-rated trash. Or we can invest it in schemes that accomplish nothing or in projects that bring unexpected rewards that continue to produce more and more.

Looking back over the last 2½ years in Dallas MCC, I can see all of the above. But most of all I can see golden friendships that have grown as we have helped each other grow.

Saying good-bye can be dangerous because there is a temptation to try to say everything I have not said before or to repeat things but that is wasting time. Let me say only this: Thank you for loving me and helping me to grow and letting me share in your growth. Let us try always to invest our time wisely and praise God for the increase.

LISA

Banquet Slated

September 18th has been set as the date for this year's Appreciation Dinner. A very special program is being planned honoring the hard work that has gone into making this such an exciting and successful year in our church. Soon tickets will go on sale and more details will be announced. Be sure to set aside the evening of Saturday, September 18th for this important event!

New Testament Class

A new lay ministries class "New Testament Survey" will begin on Tuesday, September 7th. The instructor will be Pastor Rev. Don Eastman. The classes will be each Tuesday 7 to 9 PM. There is a registration fee which covers text and materials. Registration is handled by the church office.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAME OF TAPE SERIES _____

NUMBER TO BE SENT _____ AT \$ _____ EACH

TOTAL OF CHECK OR MONEY ORDER _____

September Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Wed. 01 Pot Luck Dinner 6:15 P.M., Family Fellow- ship 7:15 P.M.	Thu. 02 Dallas Alternative 7:30 P.M.	Fri. 03 Prayer & Praise Service 7:15 P.M.	
Sun. 05 Kingdomtide Series, Rev. Don Eastman 11:00 A.M. Service; Jane Mar shall (Spec. Music) We Shall Overcome: 7 Challenges to 7 Churches, Part V, Rev. Don Eastman, 7:15 P.M.; Member ship Classes 3-5 P.M.	Mon. 06 Labor Day - No special planned activities	Tue. 07 Lay Ministry Class -New Testament Survey - 7-9 P.M.	Wed. 08 Wednes- day Evening Ser- vice 7:15 P.M. Marge Perry	Thu. 09 Dallas Alternative 7:30 P.M.	Fri. 10 Prayer and Praise Service 7:15 P.M.	Sat. 11 Leadership Retreat - All Day
Sun. 12 Kingdomtide Series, Rev. Don Eastman 11:00 A.M. Service We Shall Overcome: 7 Challenges to 7 Churches, Part VI, Rev. Don Eastman, 7:15 P.M.	Mon. 13 Overeater's Anonymous 7:30 P.M. Emo- tion's Anonymous 7:15 P.M. Dallas Gay Alliance 7:30	Tue. 14 Lay Ministry Class -New Testament Survey - 7-9 P.M.	Wed. 15 Wednes- day Evening Ser- vice 7:15 P.M. Marge Perry	Thu. 16 Regular Open Board of Director's Meeting 7:30 P.M. Dallas Alter- native 7:30 P.M.	Fri. 17 Prayer and Praise Service 7:15 P.M.	Sat. 18 1982 An- nual Appreciation Party, TBA; Membership Class - All Day
Sun. 19 Kingdomtide Series, Rev. Don Eastman 11:00 A.M. Service We Shall Overcome: 7 Challenges to 7 Churches, Part VII, Rev. Don Eastman 7:15 P.M. Rev. Lisa Berry's installation - MCC Lit- tle Rock	Mon. 20 Overeater's Anonymous 7:30 P.M. Emotion's Anonymous 7:15	Tue. 21 Lay Ministry Class -New Testament Survey - 7-9 P.M.	Wed. 22 Wednes- day Evening Ser- vice 7:15 P.M. Marge Perry	Thu. 23 Dallas Alternative 7:30 P.M.	Fri. 24 Prayer and Praise Service 7:15 P.M.	
Sun. 26 Kingdom- tide Series, Rev. Don Eastman 11:00 A.M. Ser- vice	Mon. 27 Overeater's Anonymous 7:30 P.M. Emotion's Anonymous 7:15	Tue. 28 Lay Ministry Class -New Testament Survey - 7-9 P.M.	Wed. 29 Wednes- day Evening Ser- vice 7:15 P.M. Marge Perry	Thu. 30 Dallas Alternative 7:30 P.M.		

By George!

Christ calls us to discipleship and several times we are encouraged, in fact, exhorted to count the cost. Matthew 5:12 prepares us for the persecution, as of the prophets of old. Mark 8:20-21 calls us to be spiritual first, setting aside material concerns. John 15:8 calls us to "bear fruit" and multiply as a sign of our "discipleship." In that same chapter John says that Jesus also calls His disciples "Friends" for they are more than obedient servants which "blindly obey," but they know the plan and goal. The selection of that plan is theirs, and "ours," if we seek discipleship.

It seems that too often the term "friends" is limited to being friends "with Jesus." But I feel we must, in counting the cost of discipleship, also count the cost of being "at friendship" with other Christians. In our own body (the church), we seek to present the Love of Jesus to all who enter in. We are not always successful, since I still hear, occasionally, someone say that they came to MCC - and felt set apart. "They were not a welcome addition" or so they said. I count this as probably failure on both parts - but it is not the concern which I am presenting here. (That is another problem.)

If we were to treat every other Christian that we know as truly a friend, that practice would easily grow until we could also treat those whom we don't know. This would give us out growth.

Part of the cost of discipleship is surrendering ourselves to the true and genuine friendship of others in-Christ, opening that channel up to those who are not in-Christ, and ultimately bringing them in. These credentials are essential to discipleship.

I bet you can find a special blessing in practicing your discipleship, this very week. Be a real friend to someone different.

By George Kennedy

Metropolitan Community Church
The Channel
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Dallas, TX 75219

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POSITION OPENING

Interim Pastor
Northwest District
Metropolitan Community Church of the Willamette Valley
Eugene, Oregon

To licensed and ordained clergy:

The Eugene church will have a half-time position (\$400.00/month plus health insurance) open as of January 1, 1983, when our current pastor of over four years, David Pelletier, begins his newly elected position as the Northwest District Coordinator.

We have enclosed for your reference a pastoral job description and a profile of the Eugene church and community. Should you be interested in this position, we invite you to send your inquiries, resume, references, and statement of faith to us by December 31, 1982 to the address listed below:

MCC-WV Board of Directors
1830 Holly Street
Eugene, OR 97401

Our Board of Directors would be happy to respond to any questions you might have. Should you wish to talk to someone else who is familiar with our church, the following people can assist you: Rev. Austin Amerine, current Northwest District Coordinator; Rev. David Pelletier, current MCC-WV pastor; Rev. Elder Freda Smith; Lay Elder Michael Mank.

We look forward to hearing from you. Should you know of someone else who is interested in this position, please have them contact us so that we may provide them with the necessary information.

Sincerely,

MCC-WV Board of Directors

*Harriet Merrick
Lynne C. Lucas
Jerry A. Williams
Michael Markwell
Flo Byrne*

POSITION OPENING

PASTOR: Metropolitan Community Church of the
Willamette Valley, Eugene, Oregon

\$400.00 per month plus health benefits,
1/2 time position, 20 hrs. weekly

Opening date: January 1, 1983

The Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of the Willamette Valley is an appointed position of the Northwest District of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches in cooperation with the congregation.

The Pastor shall faithfully preach the good news of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. The Pastor shall subscribe and confess the statement of faith as found in the by-laws of the UFMCC. The Pastor shall be a licensed or ordained clergy of the UFMCC.

The Pastor shall be a spiritual leader in the congregation, seeking the common good of the congregation above personal gain, opinion and inclination. The Pastor shall arrange for all public worship of the congregation and minister the word, sacraments and rites pursuant to the by-laws of UFMCC.

The Pastor shall arrange for a program of Christian education. The Pastor shall be available for personal consultation and counseling. The Pastor shall represent the people of MCC-WV in all the spheres of public life. As it is the task and calling of all people who bear the name of Christ, the pastor shall seek to be an example of the inclusivity of the love of God in thought, word and deed.

The Pastor shall serve as moderator of the Board of Directors of the church. The Pastor shall direct, encourage and use all the gifts that the people of God together as MCC-WV bring to the service of God.

The Pastor shall arrange for ample opportunity for lay ministry and involvement in the decision making process of the church. The Pastor shall continue to read, study, take time for education and otherwise advance him/herself as a service to the congregation.

Interested persons should respond in writing with a resume, a minimum of three personal references, and a statement of faith to:

MCC-WV Board of Directors
1830 Holly Street
Eugene, OR 97401

CLOSING DATE: December 31, 1982.

PROFILE

STATUS: Mission.

MEMBERSHIP: The total number of people on our rolls is 33.

FINANCES: Average monthly income: \$888.62. Average monthly attendance: 24.4. We are current with all our expenses.

ACTIVITIES: In this limited space, it is impossible to list all the activities of our Church during the past year. We have highlighted those which as a Church have been important to our growth and the attaining of our goal as a Chartered church.

INREACH - Taking our cue from the book of Ephesians, we sponsored our first "Body Building Event". This activity was entirely planned and executed by the laity of the church with the goal of chartering in mind. From this meeting we were able to strategize for Church growth and development. We hope to follow it up soon. We have begun a choir and now it has grown to six faithful members. We have regular prayer meetings in the middle of the week. This summer we had a very successful softball team which involved many people. We had been challenged to a game by Corvallis and Salem and we won, 25 - 7. We are thinking about a "league" team for next year. Our team was almost a perfect 50/50 split between men and women. Our church also joined with our congregations in Salem and Corvallis in bringing Rev. Elder Freda Smith and Kathleen up for Spiritual Renewal. This was very successful and we are already making plans for next year.

OUTREACH - Our congregation really pitched in to support the 1982 Women's Spirituality Retreat. Volunteers from our church did a majority of the typing, collating and sending of notices, provided snacks for their opening coffee house, etc. A member of our congregation was the coordinator.

At Christmas last year, and again this year, we will participate in the "Holiday Project". Our congregation supplied gifts and musicians to go to several nursing homes and extended care facilities on Christmas day. The "Holiday Project" is a national organization and we heartily recommend it to our sibling churches. On Thanksgiving and Christmas Days, we also provided a dinner to which the community was invited.

We were happy to sponsor a fund raiser for El Salvadore which raised money to be sent directly to the children of the country through a Roman Catholic Bishop in Mexico.

Our church also sponsored and supported the Nuclear Freeze through a local political action group.

Our library continues to be the largest collection of gay/lesbian literature in the area and is used by people in the community.

Christian education has always been an area where we have needed to grow, although we have had good response to several special presentations this year.

GENERALLY SPEAKING: The involvement level in our congregation is very high. Although our numbers aren't very large, we tend to see a high percentage of people from our church support and come out for special activities, speakers, and educational opportunity. To demonstrate this, we recently had our annual Ice Cream Social and Tea Dance. We hold this activity to welcome new students to our community. At the social about 85% of our congregation was present, and helped with setting up and cleaning up. We believe that the future is bright for our city and for our congregation. On November 7th, we celebrated our seventh year in Eugene and it is our hope, God willing, to soon be a chartered church of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

**JANUARY
1983**

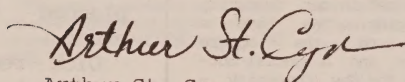
PRODIGAL

OFFICIAL NOTICE!!

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, in accordance with the By-Laws of the UFMCC, the Annual Congregational Meeting of MCC-San Diego will be held on Saturday, January 29th, 1983. The time and place of the meeting are:

Date: Saturday, January 29th
Time: 6:30 pm
Place: Sanctuary, MCC-San Diego
4333 30th Street

For the Board of Directors,



Arthur St. Cyr
Clerk of the Board

(Please note that several articles are contained in this issue regarding this very important meeting. Please attend, not only to vote on the reports and for new officers, but to find out how we did last year and what is planned for this new year.)

POTLUCK DESSERT AT MEETING

As has been the custom in past years, there will be a potluck dessert about mid-way through the Annual Congregational Meeting on Saturday, January 29th. The Board of Directors have agreed to host this event.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm so be sure to arrive early to be able to properly store your goodies until time to serve them, be they cookies, a delicate mousse, a light angel food cake, or a delicious double devil's food delight.

Remember, that's a potluck dessert at the Congregational Meeting on Saturday, January 29th.



Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego

4333 30th Street • San Diego, California 92104
Mailing Address — P.O. Box 33291 • San Diego, California 92103

Rev. David Farrell - Pastor
Rev. Walt Collins - Asst. Pastor
Days - (619) 280-4333

Services Sunday 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Services Wednesday 8:00 p.m.
(619) 297-0875 - Eves

Great Beginning!

IT'S A NEW YEAR
AND A GREAT BEGINNING

The year • 1982 was a good year for Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego.

Early in the year the Congregation engaged in a Covenant with God - "If it be God's will, we shall celebrate Christmas in our new church home."

We embarked upon a campaign to raise a \$145,000 down payment for a church big enough to accommodate everybody who wanted to worship with us. Some thought this unequalled task was impossible especially in troubled economic times.

Rev. David led the fund raising drive with the theme "That all things are possible through the power of Jesus Christ our Lord." Members of our Congregation gave abundantly.

Just as important many people and organizations and groups throughout the Community gave generously. And this fine city witnessed a flurry of activity the proportions of which it had never seen before and which commanded the attention of

the Gay and Non-Gay media. Our vision became a reality and represented a victory not only for MCC but for the entire community. A Community came together in unity of purpose - that MCC serves a very valid need and deserves to grow and flourish.

On "Celebration Sunday," September 26th, 1982, our entire congregation had an opportunity to worship together, at the same time and the same place. It was a joyful time. Our prayers had been answered. However, it didn't mean the end of our mission. Indeed, it marked the beginning - A Great Beginning.

In a New Year's sermon Rev. David projected a "Spiritual Renaissance" in our Community by saying, "We have a ministry to the entire Community and a special outreach to the Gay Community - to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome strangers and free the imprisoned." Rev David underscored the vision in our future ministry which may take us through "uncharted territory" as "excellence in every way."

OUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT!!

'FOLLIES '83' GEARING-UP

The first meeting for all people to be involved with the new 1983 production of the MCC-San Diego annual show, the "Follies", was held on January 4th in the social hall. Director for this year, Dick Strebe, feels that from the response and the plans formed that this will be the biggest and best ever! We keep saying that each year, but for good cause this year, for the Follies is celebrating its 11th Anniversary this season and new features !!galore!! are planned to commemorate the event.

Dick reminds us that you need not be a professional anything! A desire and willingness is all you need to be a part of this very popular and well received fund-and-fun raiser. Plans for this year's show include "live" numbers as well as the traditional pantomime and will also feature guest stars. Remember there is a place reserved just for YOU Watch these pages for additional information The show is scheduled for March 24-25-26 this year at Lewis Jr. High, the same place as last year.

Even if you can't be a part of the cast, you can still be an important part of the production by helping before, during or after the show, in many other capacities.

Dick also asks us to fill out a questionnaire, extra copies of which are available at the Bookstore, if we are interested in helping out. It should be turned in there also.

it's a beauty

JOIN THE BEAUTIFICATION
COMMITTEE

The Church Beautification Committee, under the hard-working leadership of Sam Bazile, is now "off and running," so to speak. Rev. David and Sam thank all of those who worked so hard to spruce up the Sanctuary and the church building for the Christmas holidays.

The Sign-up chart to join the Committee is now posted in the Social Hall. (You'll chuckle over Rusty's clever caricatures when you sign up on the chart).

Volunteers are needed to donate an hour a week to beautify the church. Choose an area you'd like to keep clean and tell Sam when you can donate the time, and a schedule will be set up to accommodate you.

With lots of people giving one hour a week with a specifically assigned task, then the church will stay beautiful and the work (and JOY!) will be shared among the many who offer to help.

Please SIGN UP on the beautification chart now in the Social Hall and Sam will contact you.

Reprint from UPDATE

\$37,000 Organ Given MCC/SD

SAN DIEGO — A majestic church organ valued at \$37,000 has been donated to Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego (MCC/SD) by Father Cyril Clark. The Rodgers Scarborough 750-BE organ is equivalent to a pipe organ with 50 sets of pipes.

A dedication service for the new organ is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 16 at MCC/SD, 4333 30th Street. The public is invited to attend the service which will "put the instrument through its paces."

MCC/SD Pastor Rev. David Farrell said, "This unsolicited gift represents the largest single donation to our church. We are surprised and overjoyed with this act of charity which will greatly enhance our ministry."

"It's a generous and beautiful gift — an enormous expression of confidence in our church and its future."

The organ requires custom installation which features an eight-foot *Trompette de Fete*, a large-scale solo reed stop modeled after those in the famous pipe organ of Westminster Abbey, and a 32-foot *Pedal Bourdon*, which provides the deep bass tones normally found only on the largest pipe organs. The organ will make it possible to play most existing organ literature and accompany large scale choral works. It is similar to the instrument in the Naval Training Center Chapel, whose concert series draws people from all over the region.

Asked why he chose MCC/SD as benefactor of the organ, Fr. Clark said, "I have appreciated the healing that has taken place in my own life as a result of the ministry of this church, and I see that happening with other people every day because of the love in this congregation." Fr. Clark defined healing as "healing the wounds of Gay people inflicted by non-Gay society and the established churches."

"This church has given me a great deal of support as a person and as a musician — support that I didn't receive from other churches where I was employed as a professional musician. As a matter of fact, I celebrated my first Mass as a priest at MCC's old church on Fern Street."

"I believe the organ is the voice of the joys and the sorrows of a worshipping community," said Fr. Clark. "It will add a dimension to the ministry of music that Rev. David and Terry (Wheeler, the Director of Music) have wanted for a long time."

"Music is one of the things that draws people to MCC initially — I was one of those people. I see the opportunity of doing a lot of spiritual, cultural, and social work as a result which wasn't possible in the past."

A crew of professional installers, already at work assembling the organ stringing wires, placing speakers, and attaching the *trompette* horn to one of the highest beams. The Rodgers Organ Consultant, Bob Ruck of Colton Piano and Organ Co., has promised that all the equipment will be ready and fine-tuned in time for the dedication service.

MCC/SD plans a full schedule of spiritual and cultural activities called "A Fine Spring Day" to celebrate the arrival of their new organ. It will begin with a communion service at noon followed by the 1 p.m. dedication. There will be a 2:30 p.m. reception with a spring flower motif featuring an art show (see local page), free hors d'oeuvres, a no-host champagne and wine bar, and other activities. At 4 p.m. a painting will be auctioned off, the proceeds of which will benefit Stepping Stone, a recovery home for Lesbian and Gay alcoholics.

The public is invited to participate in the entire program or any part of it. For information, call MCC/SD at (619) 280-4333.

Reprint from GAYZETTE

MCC/SD Reaches Out To Physically-Impaired

Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego's Board of Directors has voted unanimously to petition the City of San Diego and purchase whatever permits are required to provide handicapped street parking at the church's facilities in North Park.

MCC's pastor, the Rev. David Farrell, said, "We are taking all steps to insure that no person is denied access to our facilities. As a matter of fact, one of our first renovation projects was to tear down a wall and part of the stage in order to provide wheelchair access."

"We are constantly looking at any area where we can do better. Our goal is to strive for excellence and demonstrate to

the entire public that we are decent, talented human beings involved in a very valid and important ministry," the Rev. Farrell said.

MCC/SD is involved in a wide variety of outreach programs, including signage (sign language facilitators) at all their worship services and at other church events. In addition, shut-ins and those otherwise unable to attend worship services can participate by watching the videotaped broadcast production of services on cable television entitled *Reflections of MCC*. This program is aired at 9pm on Fridays on Cox Cable TV, channel 24, and on Sundays on Southwest Cable TV at 5:30pm on channel 15.

NOTE: IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO REQUEST SIGNAGE FOR EVENING SERVICES.

Reprint from UPDATE

Norman Rockwell Original Featured at MCC Auction

SAN DIEGO—The Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego (MCC/SD) in cooperation with L.A./Dallas Collier Art Galleries and Four All Seasons Caterers, is presenting an Art Show and Auction at 3:30 p.m., Sunday, January 16, 1983 at MCC/SD, 4333 30th Street, San Diego.

The art show and auction will be preceded by a 2:30 p.m. no-host champagne and free hors d'oeuvres reception which follows their organ dedication ceremonies.

The art show will feature a Norman Rockwell original valued in excess of \$10,000. Over two hundred other notable works of art promise to turn MCC's hall and courtyard into a veritable museum of art for an afternoon of fun and cultural activities with a spring flower motif.

An art auction scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m. will include original signed and numbered lithographs and serigraphs by artists such as

Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Matisse, and Norman Rockwell.

There will also be important new works of original oil and water colors by American and European artists. All work is triple matted and custom framed with verification of authenticity. Prices will range from \$35 for this charity event; and bidding on some items will start as low as \$1.

The Collier Gallery is one of the largest wholesale collectors conducting auctions throughout the United States. This is an opportunity for serious art buffs to enhance their collections and a splendid chance for the novice to acquire quality art at reasonable prices.

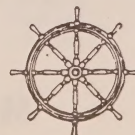
Guest auctioneers and personalities from our community should provide an entertaining experience throughout the afternoon.

The Collier Gallery has donated a signed and numbered Dali with a retail value of \$1,000 to be raffled off

at \$1 per chance as a benefit to MCC/SD. Another painting will be auctioned off at 4 p.m. by MCC with the proceeds going to Stepping Stone (a recovery home for alcoholics).

Visa or MasterCard will be accepted. However, there is absolutely no obligation to purchase and everybody in the community is welcome to attend. Those attending will automatically qualify for door prize awards.

For further information contact MCC/SD office at (619) 280-4333.



"A FINE SPRING DAY"

Sunday, January 16, 1983

A Glorious Gift of Music

A majestic church organ valued at \$37,000.00 was recently donated to MCC /SD by Father Cyril Clark. The instrument is a Rodgers Scarborough 750-BE which is equal to a pipe organ with 50 sets of pipes.

The public is invited to attend the Dedication Service which assuredly will put this instrument through its paces.

- Noon - Communion Service
- 1:00 P.M. Organ Dedication Service

The organ requires a custom installation which features an 8' Trompette de Fete which is modeled after the famous pipe organ of Westminster Abbey. It also has a 32' Pedal Bourdon which provides the deep bass tones normally found only on the largest pipe organs.

This organ promises to fill the church with spiritually motivating & splendid sounds to delight lovers of fine music.

Art - Flowers - Champagne

MCC /SD in cooperation with LA /Dallas Collier Galleries & Four All Seasons Caterers is presenting an art show, art auction and an afternoon of fun and cultural activities.

2:30 P.M. Reception

- Free Hors D'oeuvres
- No Host Champagne & Wine
- Art Show - Featuring a \$10,000 Norman Rockwell and many other famous artists

3:30 P.M. Auction of Art

- Famous signed and numbered lithographs & serigraphs
- Original oil and water colors
- All work triple matted and custom framed
- Some bids start as low as \$1.00
- Entertainment by guest auctioneers
- No obligation to purchase
- VISA & M.C. accepted

4:00 P.M. Benefit Auction & Raffle

- Auction of painting for Stepping Stone Alcoholic Recovery Home
- Raffle of painting for MCC benefit
- Auction of flowers and plants
- Door Prize Drawings

You are cordially invited.

**Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego
4333 30th St. (at El Cajon Blvd.) (619) 280-4333**

YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW

In coming months this column will provide information about the many committees and activities in our Church and some of the people involved. This may assist in taking mystery out of how things magically happen at MCC and give us an opportunity to participate more fully.

THE VIDEO CREW

The Video crew is basically comprised of a two person team - John Eberly and Dick Strebe who take responsibility for the entire broadcast production of the video ministry with Wally Donaldson pitching in on an emergency basis.

Questioned as to why they became involved in video taping the worship services, Dick said, "We felt that Rev. David Farrell's sermons were so dynamic and of such value to the congregation and Fellowship, they should be preserved somehow. Our MCC District Coordinator, Rev. Bob Arthur, came down from Los Angeles and presented a seminar entitled "Homosexuality and the Scriptures," which we taped. Attorney Al Smithson agreed to do the segment entitled "Gay People and the Law." At this point there was enough material to petition for a one hour program on public access cable TV. Christians For Social Action was formed to accomplish this. The rest is history."

"Reflections of MCC" went on the air over 2 1/2 years ago and has earned the distinction of being one of the longest running regular community programs. Programming Coordinator for Southwestern Cable, Corinne Ewald, commented on the quality of the program -- "I monitored it recently and it's great. The pace is good, nice graphics, good production and technical quality."

John feels that "it is an important ministry for the shut-ins who are unable to attend church. In addition, it goes a long way in presenting a positive image of the Gay Community to the general public."

A Gay person who watched the program said, "If there had only been something like this when I was growing up. It would have saved me a lot of pain, suffering and a suicide attempt. I didn't even know a Gay community existed and I bought the junk of my family, friends and church that I was a bad person because I happened to be Gay. The program is not only saving souls, it's saving lives."

How They Do It!

About a half hour before the worship service begins, they pull up in front of MCC in their van and swing into gear like a live action TV crew. They unload the equipment, wires and stands and start setting them in place. The camera is attached to the tripod, lights hooked-up, TV monitor and video cassette recorder is assembled and plugged in. Wires are strung all over the place including a hookup into the Audio Crew's equipment which feeds the sound track of the video tape. (The important role of the audio crew will be covered in a future report).

John is the technical person as he works professionally with audio and video aids. He fine tunes the equipment and verifies the audio pickup. Then, it's pretty much a question of camera work. They can't use a fixed camera. A "focus and follow" technique must be used to cover the sermons given by Rev. David who has a tendency to move about with a degree of enthusiasm while delivering the message.

Dick has a creative history of acting and directing in theatre. While John is busy operating the camera and keeping tabs on the technical



end, Dick double checks the framing of the picture to insure appropriate graphics will appear on the TV screen. Dick also directs the photographer for the still pictures which are used for the lead-in to the program.

Now it's time to pack all that stuff back into the Van and make arrangements to tape Attorney Al Smithson for his segment of the show.

John takes all the tapes and equipment to Video Network in La Mesa. Video Network Manager, Pete Todd, is very cooperative in allowing us to plug into his equipment for editing purposes. John edits the tapes with great precision and insures the lead-in, the three segments and the sign-off come out to the sixty minute requirement.

It's a tedious process requiring patience and expertise.

Dick handles the job from this point. He takes the tapes to Southwestern and Cox Cable and handles the public relations with their representatives. There are

many technicalities which must be met under the cable license requirements. Dick stays on top of the rules and regulations and works out any problems which arise.

Our thanks for a job well done!

Anyone seriously interested in helping out and becoming involved in broadcast production should contact Dick or John.

ELECTIONS SCHEDULED

BOARD MEMBERS and DELEGATES
TO BE ELECTED!!

Three Directors
Three Conference Delegates

Elections will be held at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 29th for three Board Members and three Conference Lay Delegates. The Board Members will be elected to full three-year terms. The Lay Conference Delegates will each serve one-year terms and will represent MCC-San Diego at the two District Conferences and the General Conference to be held this year.

The Board vacancies were created by the expiring terms of Art St Cyr, Bambi Lignell and Jean Thomas. Last year's Delegates were Al Smithson, Diane Miller & Sheila Rawls.

A Nominating Committee has been selected and consists of Barbara Crusberg, Dale Fleishman, Bambi Lignell, Linda Peck, and Al Smithson, all Board Members. The Committee will ensure that qualified candidates will be available for presentation to the Congregation by reviewing applications for the two positions. The Committee members will be available after services each Sunday, January 16th and 23th to talk to prospective candidates about the duties, responsibilities and requirements of the two offices. (Please see article elsewhere on "job descriptions.")

You should plan to submit to the Committee a brief resume which may include such items as these:

- (1) Previous positions held at MCC-San Diego or elsewhere
- (2) Involvement in MCC activities such as committees, social events, etc.
- (3) Understanding of the Board Member's or Delegate's duties and responsibilities
- (4) Willingness and ability to devote the necessary time to these long term commitments
- (5) Related Church or business experience or qualifications.

From Our Pastor

Annual Congregational Meeting

On Saturday evening, January 29th, at 6:30 pm, MCC-San Diego will hold its Annual Congregational Meeting to discuss the future of our Church in all its aspects and to review the activities of the past year. Some of the matters to be discussed are these:

-Proposed Budget for 1983
(copy of which is in this issue)

-Election of three members to the Board of Directors

-Election of three lay Delegates

In addition, reports from all Church Departments will be presented, outlining achievements and activities during 1982. These reports will be from:

-Pastor and Asst. Pastor

-Board of Directors

-Deacons, Student Clergy & Candidates

-Church Treasurer

-Stewardship Secretary

-Publications

-Music Department

-Building Committee

-Tape and Transcript Ministry

-Christian Education (including the Sunday School)

-Video-tape Ministry

-Bookstore

If any member has additional items to be placed on the agenda, please submit the item(s) to the Clerk of the Board, Art St. Cyr in care of MCC-San Diego, no later than January 23rd.

ALL MEMBERS please plan to participate in this very important part of the life of your Church. Your opinions and ideas are valuable. Let's hear from you. See you there?!

[Of course non-members are welcome to attend]

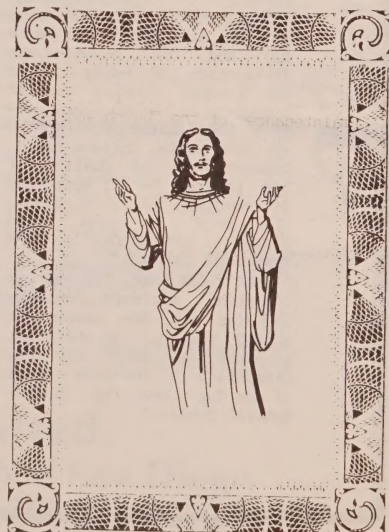
Rev. David

Reverend David



Nominations for any position may also be made from the floor of the meeting. If you plan to make a nomination from the floor, it is suggested that you first ask your candidate if he/she is willing and able to serve and thus allow time for them to prepare a resume prior to the meeting for presentation at the appropriate time.

The Nomination Committee will be pleased to answer any questions and explain fully the duties and responsibilities, time involvement, eligibility, etc. for both positions.



JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The year 1983 will probably be another exciting one for the people who will be elected as members of the Board of Directors or as Delegates for MCC-San Diego. Delegates will represent our congregation at two District Conferences and at the international General Conference to be held in Toronto, Canada. To give all voting members and potential candidates a little better idea of what these positions entail, a brief "job description" of each is presented.

Board Of Directors

The MCC-San Diego Board of Directors is composed of seven members in good standing, elected by the congregation at the Annual Meeting each January, for terms of three years, with two or three terms expiring in any given year. Three such positions are up for election this year, and at least one incumbent Board member will not be seeking re-election.

The Board serves as the officers of the incorporated Church body and as trustees of the Church funds and Church properties on behalf of the congregation. The board also has the responsibility for collecting and disbursing funds, keeping adequate Church records, and making reports thereon to the congregation and to the Fellowship offices. Examples of the kinds of issues that come before the Board include: insurance, contracts for service, setting dates and planning events, publicity, maintenance of the Church and its equipment, approval of new members of the worship staff, security, use of the facility by other organizations, membership review, interactions with other groups, annual evaluations of the clergy staff, recommendations of Student Clergy for licensure as MCC clergy, financial priorities and problems, and a host of special requests addressed to the Board.

Other activities of Board members include attending benefits and other community functions (sometimes as official representatives of the Board/Church), serving on various Church committees (such as budget, nominating,

membership review, and building committees), and helping to carry out Board decisions by accepting responsibility for various projects/assignments/tasks. Monthly Board meetings are normally held on the third Monday of each month at 7 pm, as well as a Quarterly Staff Day, with other additional meetings (committees, etc.) scheduled by mutual agreement.

To be a Board member, you should be prepared to commit at least 100-150 hours of time per year for each of three years, to deal with sensitive issues such as salaries and approval of recommended worship staff appointments, to listen to complaints and problems of members and attempt to carry out the will of the congregation, and last, but not least, to recognize that virtually no decision made by the Board pleases everyone.

If the above makes it sound too difficult, be assured that serving on the Board of MCC-San Diego is, by and large, a pleasure, due to the fantastic leadership of Rev. David, the solid support of Rev. Walt, the excellence of our worship staff, and the loving, supportive community that is our congregation.

Lay Delegate

MCC-San Diego is entitled to one delegate for each 100 members or portion thereof in accordance with the UFMCC By-Laws. Currently there are three delegates to represent our Church. All delegates are elected annually at the Congregational Meeting from the members in good standing.

As a delegate from MCC-San Diego, you have the responsibility and the obligation to represent MCC-San Diego at every District and General Conference which occurs during your tenure as delegate.

This requires you to travel to whatever location the conference is being held and attend every business meeting of the conference. Hopefully you will also attend the worship services and as many of the workshops as you can possibly schedule yourself to attend. Often the delegates will "choose" different workshops so that attendance is spread around through as many workshops as possible.

District Conferences commence on Friday evenings and conclude on Sunday, sometimes with a business meeting scheduled for Sunday afternoon.

General Conferences run at least one full week with the possibility that they may be expanded longer than a week. Whereas the District Conferences are always held within our own Southwest District, the General Conference can be scheduled for any state or any country where there are MCC Churches. In fact, the next General Conference will be held in Toronto, Canada in July.

Conferences are enjoyable, but they are also hard work. They are by no means a "vacation" and the delegates have very little time during which they are not at business meetings, worship services or attending workshops.

In order to be a good delegate, you must be an "informed" delegate -- and that means that you must be actively involved in the day-to-day activities of your church in order to intelligently represent your church in an informed manner. Delegates are called upon to vote on numerous issues and on various and sundry proposals which come before the Conference. It is the delegate's obligation to best represent the church in an informed and reasonable manner. In order to do that, delegates should attend all of the congregational and business meetings of the local church congregation and be deeply immersed in the activities and events of the local church. A delegate should be in regular attendance at church services and a person who knows the Congregation and who is accessible to the Congregation.

Being a delegate is a wonderful experience. It is also a heavy responsibility -- plus a lot of hard work!

Anyone interested in being nominated for either a Board or Delegate position is urged to contact any member of the Nominating Committee, the members of which this year are Barbara Crusberg, Dale Fleishman, Bambi Lignell, Linda Peck and Al Smithson, for further information on the procedure for submitting a statement of interest and qualifications. (See article on this elsewhere.)

Notes on the
Proposed Budget for 1983

Budget Proposal January - December 1983

Item	Proposed Monthly	Change from 1982	Proposed Yearly
1. Mortgage (1 & 2 Trust)	\$4965		\$59580.
2. Pastor's Honorarium	1500		18000.
3. Asst. Pastor's Honor.	950		11400.
4. Payroll Taxes	170	+3	2004.
5. Property Taxes	85		1020.
6. Pastor's Insurance	80	-20	960.
7. Church Insurance and Worker's Comp	150		1800.
8. Utilities	350	+50	4200.
9. Telephone	100		1200.
10. Church Security	25	-25	300.
11. Church Services	185		2220.
12. Sunday School	30		360.
13. Church Staff			
A. Secretary	275		3300.
B. Treasurer	75		900.
14. Building/Eq Maint	250		3000.
15. A. Office Supplies	125		1500.
B. Postage	75	+40	900.
16. Publications	275	+25	3300.
17. Evangelistic Outreach			
A. Promotion	100		1200.
B. Publicity	100		1200.
18. Conference Fund	300	+125	3600.
19. Miscellaneous	50		600.
20. Community Outreach			
A. Gay Center	10		120.
B. Stepping Stone	10		120.
C. SAGE	10		120.
21. Music Department			
A. Music Director	200		2400.
B. Staff Honorariums			5760.
Sun 10 AM Staff(2)	130		
Sun 7 PM Staff(2)	130		
Wed 8 PM Staff(2)	130		
Rehearsals(2)	90		
C. Music Supplies	100		1200.
22. Miscellaneous printing	75		900.
Total	11,100		133,200.
23. Tithes			
A. Fellowship (10%)	1,110.		13,320.
B. District (3%)	333.		3,996.
GRAND TOTAL	\$12,543.		\$150,516.
PROJECTED INCOME			
Property Income	-500		-6,000.
Pillars Group	-3,000		-36,000.
Fern Street Sale	-1,500		-18,000.
	<u>7,543.</u>		<u>98,059.</u>
1983			Mid 1982
Weekly Budget=\$ 2,895.			1,669.45
Monthly Budget=\$ 12,543.			7,234.26
Yearly Budget=\$150,516.			86,811.12

On Monday January 3rd, the Board met as the Budget Committee with numerous members of our Church Family and reviewed the 1982 Budget. After careful consideration of all the proposals the committee agreed to present the Proposed Budget for 1983 to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 29th.

The Proposed Budget, which has been prioritized, is reprinted elsewhere in this issue in advance of the meeting in order that you, the voting members of our congregation, may review it prior to the meeting. If you have questions, please discuss them with any Board Member during the next weeks, thus saving valuable time at the Annual Meeting.

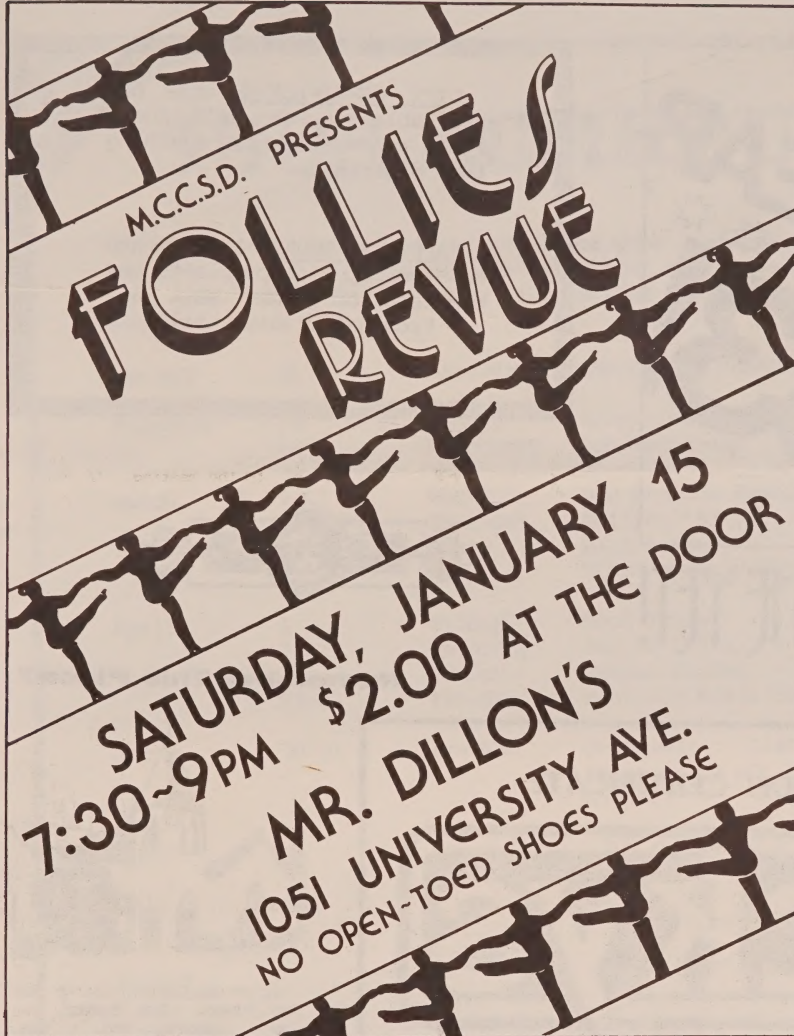
Please review this Budget carefully. You, the Congregation, must vote to accept or modify it. Remember, your vote does count; this is YOUR Church.



AIDS DISCUSSION

A panel discussion of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), an extremely important and timely topic, will be held on January 19th at 7 pm in the Main Auditorium of University Hospital, 225 Dickinson, in Mission Hills, near Mercy Hospital. The panel will consist of doctors of the San Diego Physicians for Human Rights group and University professors, all specialists in their own fields.

Are you in danger by some of your habits? Did you know that women and children can be affected also? Find out more by attending this vital discussion.



M.C.C.S.D. PRESENTS

FOLLIES REVUE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15
7:30~9PM \$2.00 AT THE DOOR

MR. DILLON'S
1051 UNIVERSITY AVE.
NO OPEN-TOED SHOES PLEASE



Follies Review Due at Dillon's

Follies Revue, an evening's entertainment, has been announced for Saturday, Jan. 15, at Mr. Dillon's in North Park. The show will be from 7:30-9pm.

Dick Strebe, the director of the 1983 version of the MCC Follies, said, "This stage show will present some spectacular highlights from last year's Follies production. In addition to being fun and entertaining, it will provide a hint of what to expect in this year's show which promises to be even bigger and better."

A half-hour intermission of disco dancing is scheduled from 8-8:30pm.

The full production of *Follies '83* will be presented on March 24-26 at Lewis Junior High School Auditorium. Over 150 people are expected to participate in this year's production, and MCC hopes the annual musical revue will play to full houses. Over 1,000 attended 1982's tenth edition of the Follies.

The theme for 1983 is "At Liberty" and "We Are Americans Too." Tickets are on sale at \$6. Contact the MCC/SD office for further information at 280-4333.

There will be a \$2 cover charge for the *Follies Revue* at Mr. Dillon's.

MEETING AT MCC

JANUARY 1983

Upstairs - weekly
Tues Sober Sisters
Men's Center
Wed Lambda Pride
Thur Thursday Night Open
Door
Fri Life Begins with
Alanon

Sanctuary - weekly
Sat Dignity/San Diego
(Starts Jan 22)

January - monthly
12 Cultural Center
20 Men's Center
28 Men's Center

If your group would like to use the meeting space at MCC, please contact Gary Basden at 563-7900 (days) or 574-6232 (nights).



THE BEST ONE YET!

GIFT CERTIFICATES are now available at the MCC Bookstore redeemable for anything they distribute.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY this month to two special people to our congregation - Rev Walt and our Prodigal printer, Bill.



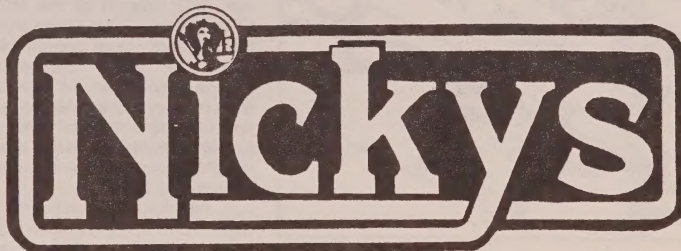
Remember This Place?



It is the Christ Church of San Diego. Its Pastor, the Rev. Robert Ard, was contacted recently and gave this enthusiastic report "We love the church. It's a real blessing to us. Our congregation is functioning and growing. Everything is coming along fine. We have all kinds of programs going - many things happening. Our Sunday School is already active and we are getting ready to start a food program. Your concern and continued prayers are appreciated."

Rev. Ard extended a welcome and invitation to anyone who was interested to come back and visit. Let us praise the Lord for their successful ministry and keep them in our prayers.

NOMINATION CERTIFICATE



NICKY NOMINATIONS (MCC-S.D. MEMBERS)

MCC SAN DIEGO	- ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR
MCC FOLLIES	- EVENT OF THE YEAR
YVETTE DUBE	- ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
LINDA CLARKE	- ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
DAYBREAK QUARTET	- ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
STEVE DESDIER	- MALE PERSONALITY
PEGGY MCMASTERS	- ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
REV. WALT COLLINS	- COMMUNITY SERVICE

Presented this December 13, 1982

Nicole Murray, President

Eagle Productions

1983 SCHEDULE

The following schedule is presented for your information and is correct as of publication, but is subject to change. Be sure to read these pages for the latest information on these and other events of YOUR church.

January	29	Saturday	ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
February	14	Monday	Valentine's Social & Dance
	16	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday
March	9-13	Wed-Sun	New Freedom Evangelistic Team
	24-25-26	Thur-Sat	Follies '83
	27	Sun	Palm Sunday
	30	Wed	Start of Holy Week observances
April	1	Friday	Good Friday
	2	Saturday	Easter Vigil
	3	Sunday	Easter Sunday
	22-24	Fri-Sun	District Music Festival
May	20-22	Fri-Sat	Southwest District Conference (hosted by MCC Beach Cities, Santa Monica)
June	5	Sunday	13th Anniversary of MCC San Diego
July	TBD		Yard Sale
	11-17	all week	GENERAL CONFERENCE at Toronto
August			
Sept	5	Monday	Annual Labor Day Picnic
	19	Monday	Harbor Cruise
October			
November	4-6	Fri-Sun	Southwest District Conference (hosted by MCC San Diego)
	18		Western Minister's Conference (hosted by MCC San Diego)
	24	Thursday	Thanksgiving
December	11	Sunday	Reserved for
	18	Sunday	Cantata performances
	25	Sunday	Christmas Day

JANUARY 1983

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
REMINDER OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS						1
2 10 Rev. David 7 Rev. David	3	4	5 8 pm Cal Lindley	6	7	8
9 10 Rev. David 7 Rev. David	10	11	12 8 pm Rev. Walt	13 Ministerial Staff Meeting 7 pm	14	15 7:30 pm Follies Revue Mr. Dillion's
16 Rev. David 12:00 Communion 1:00 Organ Dedication 2:30 Reception 3:30 Art Auction	17 Board of Directors 7 pm	18	19 8 pm Sheila Rawls	20	21	22
23 Nicky Award Voting 10 Rev. David 7 Rev. David	24 Nicky Awards	25	26 8 pm Diane Miller	27	28	29 6:30 pm Annual Congregational Meeting
10 Rev. David 30	31		Membership Class 6 pm			

IMPORTANT NEWS ITEMS

FOLLIES REVIEW, a mini-version, will be at Mr. Dillon's, Saturday, January 15th, 7:30-9 pm with a \$2 cover. Dancing at the break.

DEDICATION of our NEW CHURCH ORGAN will be held on Sunday January 16th at 1 pm. Note: there will be only one service that day, and communion will be before the service, at noon.

ART AUCTION and reception will be held following the dedication on January 16th.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be, January 29th at 7:30 pm. It is 29th and for all members to attend to discuss and vote on plans for the new year.

DESSERT POTLUCK planned during the break about mid-way through the Annual Meeting. Be sure to attend this important meeting. Would you bring something sweet with you?

REPORTS ARE DUE from all Church departments by Sunday January 17th in order to have time to type them for the packet for the Annual Meeting on the 29th.

VALENTINE'S DINNER & DANCE is set for Monday, February 14th at the Fiesta Theater in Spring Valley. Remember the great time we had last year? More details later, but plan to attend!!

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED during January were Cees, Chris, Ron, and Jerry. Congratulations and thanks for becoming a member of our Church family.

FOLLIES '83 will be on the nights of March 24-25-26 at the same place as last year. More details next issue.

NEW SERVICE TIME for the Wednesday Service - moves up to 7:30 pm on February 2nd, the first Wed of the month.

NICKY'S are here again. Several MCC events and people are nominated this year for this prestigious award. The awards will be presented at the Ambassador Convention Center on Monday, January 31st at 8 pm.

NICKY VOTING PARTY to be held at the MCC Social Hall after the 10 am & 7 pm services on Sunday, January 23rd. Attend service and cast your vote, impartially, for the nominees of your choice.



CHRIST'S WAY

Newsletter of
Christ Metropolitan Community Church

Miami, Florida

WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY 23rd St. & N.E. 2nd Ct.

Volume VI, No. 1

JANUARY, 1983

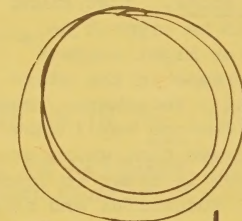
As the three Wisepersons came searching for the Christ -- so we all are on a spiritual journey. And, as the three Magi found the child of light by following the Star, so we too must look for God's leading in our individual lives.

The Magi found the child after Christmas on a day we celebrate as *Epiphany* (which is a Greek word meaning *God Shines Forth*).

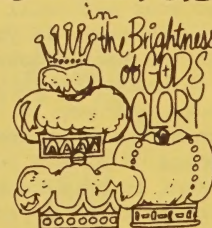
The three Magi brought gifts to the holy child, signifying the offering of their life and life values to God. So as God has given each of us special gifts, or talents, we need to offer them again to God so they may be blessed for God's use and our use in the world.

In the New Year we can let the light of God shine in and through each of us so that the natural talents and abilities we have can reflect God's light in our life. As we seek God so God leads us and blesses us to unfold in exciting and meaningful ways in order that we can be

productive for ourselves and for others. Know you are a child of the light. Let the Epiphany (God shining forth) in you light your life all during 1983.



The Lord
Almighty
is with us



"COUNTRY/WESTERN NIGHT"

SAT., JANUARY 29, 1983
7:30 P.M.

FEATURING A SHOW BY

"THE SOUTH FLORIDA

MUSTANGS"

SQUARE DANCE
TROUPE

PLUS

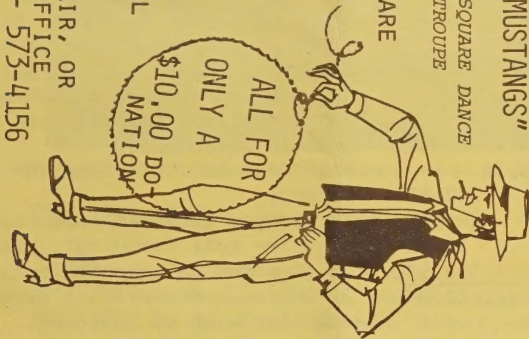
++ COUNTRY AND SQUARE
DANCING

++ CASH BAR

++ WESTERN MEAL OF
BAR-B-QUE RIBS
AND CHICKEN

++ DOOR PRIZES
DONATED BY LOCAL
BUSINESSES

SEE LARRY K., CHAIR, OR
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE
FOR RESERVATIONS - 573-4156



+ MCC +
P.O. Box 370963
Miami, Fl. 33137

Address Correction Requested

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Miami, Fl.

TIME - DATED MATERIAL

PROMPT DELIVERY REQUESTED

PASTOR'S COLUMN



LET
YOUR
LIGHT
SHINE

If I have one word of advice to you for the New Year, it is to let your light shine. That might seem to be cryptic to some, or might suggest an increase in the electric bill to others. But, it is the one way I know to achieve that which we all seek in order to lead happy, successful and prosperous lives.

By light I mean the truth of God in you -- what you believe. If your faith level is low or wavering, not much light can come from you. That means your view and your path will be unclear. Whereas, if your faith in the loving power of God shinning within you is strong, your way is clear no matter what seems to be going on around you. We all want to be accepted, to be loved, to be approved of, to be praised. Yet, if these conditions are missing it probably means we are not sending them out by means of our own faith light -- and, thus, they are not reflected back to us in our experience. Many ask for faith think-

ing it is some kind of assurance that never changes. When in reality faith is declining or dead if it is not used.

What do you want from God, from life? See and believe your own good now exists and prayerfully project it onto your life experience, so it will be done as you believe. One modern spiritual writer has said, "You believe in order to see." This means that what good you desire (provided it does not rob, harm or demean yourself or any other) will come as you let your light of faith bring it into your life.

As we give out the light of faith, it means we look for and see good in all with whom we relate in any way. It means we view any trials or problems as opportunities to learn how to make our faith real. It means we keep looking for ways to be helpful to others, knowing that this opens the channels by which the good we send out from our lives returns in greater measure from the God of all love and light. This is the year to let your light shine. Thank God for the light of all good shinning now into your life.

Pastor Sue

TREASURER'S REPORT NOVEMBER, 1982

RECEIPTS

Offering	\$	
Sunday	939.85	
Thanks. Day	127.10	
Nursing Home	2.31	
Sun. AM w/MCC	50.00	
Socials		
T. Perry Din.	308.50	
Hallow. (Oct.)	62.53	
Thanks. Din.	271.00	
Mi-Wk Dins.	100.25	742.28
Special Offering		
Casst. Mins.	10.00	
Deacons Cup.	1.00	
Tele. Donation	18.39	
Other	273.26	302.65
Booktique		69.29
Soft Drink Sales		35.90
HMO Contributions		393.57
TOTAL		\$2,662.89

DISBURSEMENTS

Rent Donation	\$	400.00
Pastor's Stipend		400.00
Telephone		38.87
Transportation		258.33
Pastoral Housing		258.33
Discretionary Fund		100.00
Socials		
Hallow. (Oct.)		30.39
Thanks. Din.		1371.72
Mi-Wk Dins.		108.88
Sun. AM w/MCC		211.00
Postage		47.29
Newsletter		65.16
Office Supplies		18.48
HMO Plan		433.70
Booktique		226.91
Altar Supplies		65.65
Stewardship Supp.		45.50
Honoraria (Rev. Fletcher, 25.00; Rev. Perry, 50.00)		75.00

(Continued in next column.)

DISBURSEMENTS (Cont.)

Dist. Conf. Expenses	93.00
Returned Check	27.00
Bank Charge	9.02
TOTAL	\$3,050.22

+++++
HELP SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH!!
+++++

BOARD MET

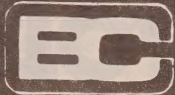
The board met on December 10th at 7:30 p.m. in the church office with the Pastor and all but one member present. Three congregational members were also in attendance.

IN DECEMBER

PRINCIPAL ACTIONS TAKEN INCLUDED:

- 1) Removed 18 names from the inactive roll (dropped), placed 10 names on inactive roll.
- 2) Reviewed Stewardship pledge campaign with C. Davidson.
- 3) Agreed to staff/board Planning Day in February.
- 4) Reviewed in-reach and fund raising activity -- particularly Trash & Treasure Sale.
- 5) Approved Epiphany Worship for Wed., Jan. 5th.
- 6) Voted to continue to pay for preparation of Wed. mid-week dinners.
- 7) Approved Country/Western Nite dinner and dance for Jan. 29th, with Larry K. as chair.
- 8) Heard Pastor report on Rosalind Rinker visit in May. Next regular meeting of the board is Friday, Jan. 7th at 7:30 p.m. in the church office.

+++++
PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH BOARD
+++++

club
miami 

2991 coral way miami fla

A member of the Club Bath Chain

448-2214

DID YOU FORGET TO PLEDGE???

If you did, you can use the coupon below. Just cut it out and mail to CHURCH STEWARDSHIP CHAIRPERSON, P. O. Box 370963, Miami, FL 33137.

That insures your complete confidentiality,

HELP THE CHURCH == PLEDGE TODAY == MAIL IT IN.

YES, I FORGOT!

CHRIST METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH

HERE IS THE AMOUNT _____, I PLEDGE TO PAY THIS

___ WEEKLY ___ BIWEEKLY ___ MONTHLY ___ OTHER

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

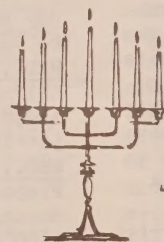
TELEPHONE No. _____

I AM A ___ CHURCH MEMBER ___ FRIEND ___ ATTENDEE

MAIL TO: P. O. BOX 370963, MIAMI, FL 33137

THANK YOU
FOR HELPING
THE CHURCH

WORSHIP IN THE LIGHT



JOIN US IN THE LIGHT

FOR AN EPIPHANY EVE
(Twelfth Night of Christmas)

WORSHIP SERVICE

7:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 5, 1983



BRING YOUR SPECIAL

GIFT OF FOOD AND

JOIN US FOR THE

POT LUCK DINNER

AT 7:45 P.M.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



MAY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SHINE IN YOUR LIFE IN 1983

MEDITATION On Thursday,
January 11th,
GROUP MEETS and Thursday,
January 25th,
IN JANUARY Meditation
Prayer Group

will be held in the church office at 8:00 p.m. All members and friends are invited to use this opportunity to find God's peace in their life. For persons who have never meditated, this is an ideal opportunity to seek spiritual growth.

DEACONS CUP- Members and
attendees at
BOARD SUNDAY Worship on
Sunday, Jan.
IS JAN. 9TH 9th, may
bring non-

perishable foodstuffs and personal hygiene items for the church to give to the needy. The gifts are collected during Worship. Anyone may donate at anytime, See Deacon Ken Bland or contact the Pastor.

CHOIR VOICES We are most
fortunate
ARE NEEDED to have a
number of

members and friends who regularly practise and sing in our choir. More voices are needed. If you are interested, see Charles Davidson and plan to be at rehearsal on Sun., Jan. 16th, following Worship. Choir warm-up is at 6:15 p.m. sharp each Sunday before Worship. Come sing with the choir.

WEDNESDAY

DINNERS

AND PROGRAMS

Beginning the
New Year we
will have
dinners and
programs on
each Wednes-

day evening. Plan now
to join us.

WED., JAN. 5th - 7:00 pm
EPIPHANY EVE WORSHIP fol-
lowed at 7:45 p.m. by a
pot-luck (no charge).

WED., JAN. 12th - 7:00 pm
Prepared Dinner (\$3.50
donation) followed at

8:00 p.m. by a program
"POSITIVE STEPS TOWARD
PEACE" presented by a
speaker from the Coali-
tion For Peace & Justice.

WED., JAN. 19th - 7:00 pm
Prepared Dinner (\$3.50
donation) followed at

8:00 p.m. by Dan Bradley,
local attorney and ac-
tivist, leading a pro-
gram on "HOW TO ACHIEVE
OUR RIGHTS IN THE '80s".

WED., JAN. 26th - 7:00 pm
Prepared Dinner (\$3.50
donation) followed at

8:00 p.m. by Jack Campbell
--local businessman-- who
serves on boards of Na-
tional Gay Task Force,
Gay Rights National Lob-
by, Human Rights Campaign
Fund and other national
organizations, leading a
program on "NATIONAL GAY
RIGHTS GROUPS -- What
They Do And Where They
Are Going".

BE WITH US ON WEDNESDAYS

Want to help out?

DON'T
COP
OUT

volunteer

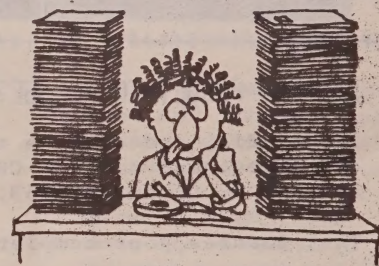
A recent article in a local newspaper featured the reasons why people volunteer their time to an infinite number of worthy activities. Those listing reasons for volunteering did it 1) for fun, 2) for faith and 3) for good company. As a church, Christ MCC must run on volunteer time and effort.

Naturally, many of the volunteer jobs in the church are not glamorous and do not bring any great prestige. Yet, with so many talented people as members and friends, these jobs can be made fun and the basic work of our part of God's Kingdom can be steadily accomplished with ease.

We have even devised a way in which persons who will contribute a minimum of \$10.00 per week to the church (a modest gift by today's standards) can then donate three hours of work per week at church and be eligible for a "reward". These persons become members of the 10/10 Family and join with the Roaring '20s Family (persons who donate \$20.00 weekly) for a quarterly "Blessings Party". The last party was aboard a luxury yacht (totally free as a gift of the church).

Even if you are not able to be a member of either family you can still donate of your time and talent to your church.

Much work needs to be done in typing, etc. in the church office. We always need persons as ushers and greeters. The Hoppers group needs you to work together to invite people to our activities. Let your light shine. Volunteer NOW!



LOVING AND GIVING

By Mark Sheinkow

Eric Fromm writes in his excellent book, The Art Of Loving. He writes of four types of people and how they relate to the general subject of giving of oneself (one aspect of loving) and giving economically as one example. One type of personality or trait he calls receptive, exploitive or hoarding. This is the inability to get beyond the stage of wanting or needing. A second type is the market orientation -- being able to give something, provide you get something in return. A third type is the non-productive orientation. This type of person strives for little and therefore feels he or she had nothing to give and would be impoverished by giving. The final type is the productive character, who has goals, who is productive and consequently rewarded, and who sees giving as an act or expression of her or his productivity.

Excerpted from the article Money and Giving in THE SHEPHERD STAFF, monthly publication of Good Shepherd Parish/MCC, Chicago, IL

MAKE A PLEDGE & KEEP IT

BRIDGE GROUP

MEETS TO PLAY

JANUARY 14TH

Those who want to play bridge, or want to learn to play, can attend the bridge group on Fri., January 14th, in the church social hall. Time that play begins is 7:30 p.m. This opportunity is also a good way to meet new people. Everyone is most welcome.

+++++

WELCOME TO

NEW MEMBERS

Too late to be included in the last newsletter was the joining of our church by two persons. On Sunday November 28th Russell C. and Steve W. became members. Both are already very active in our church life. On Sunday, December 26th, Larry G. became our newest member.

We welcome all of them and pray God's blessings upon them. Congratulations.

+++++

HOP ABOUT WITH

THE HOPPERS

Deacon Mike Nikolaus says: "With our T-shirts having arrived, the group is about to hop about to various local places of refreshment and invite folks to our Wednesday dinners." Those who want to join need only buy the T-shirt and commit themselves to working with Mike in telling about MCC.

MEMBERSHIP

CLASSES IN

JANUARY

Three membership classes will be offered in January. Each will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. in the church office on Sundays, January 16, 23 and 30. Topics covered will include history and beliefs of UFMCC, the bible, homosexuality, etc. All persons are welcome to attend without obligation.

+++++

SERMON SERIES IS ANNOUNCED

FOR SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

Pastor Green will have a four-part series on some of the fundamental life questions raised by those who are persons of faith or seeking meaning through faith. The dates and topics are:

SUN., Jan 9 -- "WHO/WHAT IS GOD?"

SUN., Jan. 16 -- "WHO ARE WE?"

SUN., JAN. 23 -- "WHY ARE WE HERE?"

SUN., JAN. 30 -- "HOW CAN WE LIVE WITH MEANING?"

Cassette tapes of Sunday sermons will be available, as are all sermons. The cost is \$3.50 for each tape. The cassette tapes are available through our Book-tique, which is open following Sunday services in the church social hall.

+++++

WORSHIP WITH US ON SUNDAY

+++++

HELP OUT WITH THE NURSING

HOME MINISTRY ON SUNDAYS

Each Sunday of the month, except the first and last Sunday, the Pastor conducts a brief Worship service at the County nursing home and health care facility 2500 N.W. 22nd Ave. Any persons who play the guitar or piano and can lead singing may volunteer to help out. Persons who are willing to accompany the Pastor to assist are also welcome. Help your church touch the lives of persons who are hungry for the word of God's love.

+++++

DRESS UP AND JOIN

US FOR OUR COUNTRY

WESTERN PARTY

Get out your boots, bandanas and calico items for our big Country/Western Party in our Social Hall and Patio on January 29th. The South Florida Mustangs will present a square dance show. There will be a supper of bar-b-que spare ribs and chicken with the traditional accompanying foods. The cash bar will be open and there will be country and square dancing. The price for all this will be only \$10.00 per person. Reservations are necessary so see Larry K, the chairperson, or call the church office, 573-4156. Come on. Partners and join the fun.

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December SMTWTFS 1234 567891011 12131415161718 19202122232425 262728293031	February SMTWTFS 12345 6789101112 13141516171819 20212223242526 2728			HAPPY NEW YEAR! 	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	
2 WORSHIP, 7:00 p.m.	3	4	5 EPIPHANY WORSHIP, 7:00 p.m. followed by pot-luck dinner at 7:45 p.m. (no charge)	6	7 Board of DIRECTORS 7:30 p.m. in the church office	8
9 Nursing Home Service, 1:30 p.m. Staff Class, 5:30 p.m. WORSHIP, 7:00 p.m.	10 5:30 p.m.	11 MEDITATION PRAYER GROUP 8:00 p.m.	12 Prepared Dinner, 7:00 p.m. (\$3.50 donation) followed at 8:00 p.m. by "POSITIVE STEPS TOWARD PEACE"	13 5:00 p.m.	14 BRIDGE GROUP 7:30 p.m. Social Hall	15
16 Nursing Home Service, 1:30 p.m. Staff Class, 4:30 p.m. Membership Class, 5:30 p.m. WORSHIP, 7:00 p.m. Choir Practise after Worship	17 1:30 p.m.	18	19 Prepared Dinner, 7:00 p.m. (\$3.50 donation) followed at 8:00 p.m. by Dan Bradley, "HOW TO ACHIEVE OUR RIGHTS IN THE '80s"	20	21	22
23 Nursing Home Staff Class 4:30 p.m. Membership Class, 5:30 p.m. WORSHIP, 7:00 p.m.	24 1:30 p.m.	25 MEDITATION PRAYER GROUP 8:00 p.m.	26 Prepared Dinner, 7:00 p.m. (\$3.50 donation) followed at 8:00 p.m. by Jack Campbell, "NATIONAL GAY RIGHTS GROUPS - what they do and where they are going"	27	28	29 COUNTRY-WESTERN DINNER AND DANCE 7:30 p.m. feature show by the Mustangs — Reservations necessary

A CREATION-theology approach to the meaning of human sexuality will be the theme of a GSP New Town Forum at 7:30 pm Wednesday, Nov. 17. Mathematical physicist Brian Swimme will lecture on "Science and Sex," presenting material from his forthcoming book *Einstein and Jesus*.

Swimme is an associate of Matt Fox's Institute in Creation-Centered Spirituality and is co-author with Fox of *Manifesto for a Global Civilization*. He relates the insights of the "new physics" to an emerging spiritual vision that embraces the body, the senses, the cosmos, and the inner life.

A \$3 donation is requested.

GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
615 W. Wellington Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60657
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MCC Boston
131 Cambridge St
Boston, MA 02114

DATED MATTER
TIME VALUE

NEW MEMBER CLASSES ANNOUNCED

"INTRODUCTION TO a Community of Faith," the course that leads to membership in GSP, will be offered in December, according to plans at press time. Dates set are three Sunday afternoons:

Dec. 5, 1-5 pm; Dec. 12, 1-5 pm; and Dec. 19, 3-5 pm.

If interested, you may register at the church or by calling the church office during regular hours, Tue.-Fri. 10-1. It is hoped that new members will be received on Dec. 19.

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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH/MCC, CHICAGO

The Shepherd's STAFF

November, 1982

THE TRUE GAY CHURCH : REVISITED

Andrea Kanter

"It is an old argument: Are you more likely to find God going to church or going to a tavern?"

So began Jon-Henri Damski's front page column in the October 21 issue of *GayLife*, entitled: The true gay church. In that column were some disturbing insinuations about Good Shepherd Parish and the people who come here, and GSP's moral standards and relationship to the gay community as a whole. What follows is a summary of Damski's allegations and our response to them.

The gay religious experience is diverse, argued Damski; many gay people feel closer to God in a bar than they do in any church. They encounter the divine while tricking, or by "dancing their brains out at 5 a.m. on Sunday morning." Being openly gay is like belonging to a "loose, non-denominational, non-denominating

congregation," wrote Damski. "There should be a common fellowship between all gay and lesbian people. But sometimes ... we engage in tacky quarrels." As an example of such a "tacky quarrel," Damski told of Kelley, manager of an adult bookstore, who claimed that he had been rejected for the part of Bishop in the current Shepherd Player's production of T.S. Eliot's Murder in the Cathedral.

Damski alleged that Kelley had been turned away because he worked in a "dirty bookstore"; that GSP was acting as an oppressor of its own gay people, enforcing severe, moralistic rules; that GSP was engaging in the "politics of queens." It would be "spiritually offensive" for someone associated with a "dirty bookstore" or a "trash bar" to appear in a church-sponsored play.

(continued on page 2)

please help us keep up with you.
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SHEPHERD'S STAFF

POLICY

Shepherd's Staff is published monthly
and distributed free of charge. Shepherd's
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Good Shepherd Parish/Metropolitan Com-
munity Church. Any opinions expressed
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church policy.

OUR CHURCH

Good Shepherd Parish/Metropolitan Com-
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gardless of affectional preference, race or
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Worship Service: Sunday, 7:00 P.M. 615
West Wellington, Chicago. 24-Hour tele-
phone: (312) 472-8708

(continued from page 1)

That was one view of GSP. Further
on in his column, Damski wrote of
an uptight, closeted individual
named Kyle who had visited "the
MCC church" on a couple occasions
and was "scandalized" and
"repelled to the max." Why?
According to Kyle: "The minister
was a reformed hippie in a fur
coat; they played kissy-face
through communion; I fully expect-
ed they would use poppers while
praying; they said something like,
'God is female.'"

It is difficult to determine whe-
ther GSP is supposed to be a
church of moralistic prudes, or a
flaky place filled with spaced
out ex-hippies sniffing poppers.
Both representations are mis-
leading. GSP is neither, as an
outraged Jay Deacon made clear in
his response to Damski's article.
As of this writing, the response
is scheduled to appear in the
October 28 issue of GayLife.
Replied Deacon:

"The story of one disappointed
auditioner for a play is not
grounds for the charge that this
church, or the Players, is
governed by self-righteous moral-
ism. Indeed, we have worked long
and hard to liberate a great many
people from such attitudes.

"Fifty persons auditioned for 12
parts in Murder in the Cathedral,
some with remarkable credentials
and experience. Kelley was among
20 who were called back for a
second audition. His was not the

AN EDITORIAL

Phil Luing

Theology and theologians be
damned -- We have some down-to-
earth, everyday problems with
which we need to cope in down-to-
earth, everyday language. And it
is rapidly becoming obvious that
no metaphysical God is available
to give us the help we don't
really need anyway to cope with
these problems.

That is to say:

- 1) What used to be God is now
just all the energy in the
universe, known and unknown to
physics.
- 2) That energy is not in control
of itself; it just happens the
way it happens for many little
reasons and no big Reason.
- 3) What used to be God's Will
is now just the various ways we
attempt to explain things to
ourselves.
- 4) Spirituality is really just
the ways, known and unknown to
biology and psychology, that the
bits of energy we are interact
with the rest of the energy in
the universe.
- 5) The only power we need to
deal with is that within our-
selves which allows us to work
with each other to do what we
can with what we have.

6) The church retains vitality
only as an individual and
community-affirming center; as
a place to worship a God in
control of everything, it is
embarrassing and unhealthy.

7) It remains to be seen whether
Christianity and Other Religions
can cope with all this.

In the meantime, let's all work
together to cope with our own
everyday, down-to-earth problems.

***The opinions expressed on the
editorial page are those of the
writer and do not necessarily speak
on behalf of Good Shepherd Parish,
MCC or the Shepherd's Staff. Please
address any comments to: Editorial,
the Shepherd's Staff; Good Shepherd
Parish, MCC; 615 W. Wellington;
Chicago, IL 60657.*

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Features.....Richard Teppema

Editorials.....Phil Luing

Layout....Phil Luing,

Jeff LaLonde

Printing.....Wayne Bradley

Paul F. Emmelton, watercolors, drawings

New show: "Portugal +", December 3, 4, 5, '82
Come to Paul Waggoner, 111 East Oak St.

GOOD LUCK RICHARD

We of the Shepherd's Staff want to express our thanks to one of our editors, Richard Teppema, who is leaving us and Chicago for bigger and better things in San Francisco. This is the last issue with his help and it will surely be missed. Look out San Francisco a true blooded Chicagoan is on his way.

GOOD LUCK RICHARD!

one of a kind



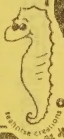
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worst audition, not by far. Nor was it the best.

"The playbill doesn't list the cast's or crew's places of employment. It does list experience in theatre. That, not where an individual happens to work, is what mattered in our auditions. The assistant stage manager for this production happens to work in an adult bookstore. He is also the chair of a key committee in GSP. Another important committee chair works at an adult bookstore, as well. Both enjoy our confidence.

"The larger issue here isn't what happened at the audition, but what GSP is about. GSP is a congregation of gay and straight, women and men, black and white and more; people who value their humanity and their own lived experience as a primary source, beyond dogma, of what they believe. We are interested neither in legalisms nor in moralistic demands. We are interested in first-hand spirituality that integrates body, soul and cosmos in a vision of wholeness. We cultivate inward spirituality, and we cultivate sensuality that values the body and takes delight in it. We cultivate prophetic activism.

"Ours is not a narrow traditional vision, but an expanding one. 'Sex' and 'sin' do not form for us an equation. No, sex is an ancient energy of life at the center of one's Self, expressing

our divinity, radiating from us and meeting the energy of another, dancing in the rhythm between the center point of one's self and that of another (sometimes several others, sometimes in bookstores).

"Sex has to do with spirituality, with ecstasy and with contact between persons. Contact between persons betokens our cosmic connectedness, the infinity of our lives, our part in a larger life beyond our own individuality. Sex has to do with touching that. It, like nearly anything, can be abused, distorted; sure. But more often it is denied; and lusty love of life is a component of what I call spirituality.

"And what about that repulsive statement: God is female. Yes, at GSP we are guilty of feminism. God is as female as she is male; God is as male as he is female. God is all that life is, you and me and all the cosmos.

"We have worked hard at reinterpreting religious tradition in light of our lived experience; at rediscovering the non-legalistic, non-judgmental mystical tradition; at providing a community for growth ... I am proud of Good Shepherd Parish: a loving, people-affirming community."

At GSP, we look forward to a time when the dichotomy between church and tavern will exist no more, when people will find God wherever they choose to live their lives.

ADVERTISING RATES FOR

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

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POLICE POLICE POLICE

Within the last two years:

Toronto's gay community is galvanized against the police.

A Dallas off-duty policeman shot and killed by a gay activist.

San Francisco's gay community maintains an uneasy peace with the police.

In Chicago, IGLTF speaks to all police cadets at the Chicago Police Academy.

IGLTF addressed police at roll-calls

in Chicago's gay communities. The Chicago police department, this year, issued orders and a position paper which express a commitment to equal protection for Chicago's gay men and lesbians. The position paper is released to police around the State.

Name _____

Address _____

SHEPHERD'S STAFF MONTHLY THEMES

Remember, we welcome contributions from readers.

November--Thanksgiving

December--Christmas: Different Stories

January--A New Year: Looking Ahead

February--Affirming Love

March--Spring

April--Easter

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WORLD HUNGER AND US

Would you like to do something about world hunger?

On Thursday, November 18, hundreds of thousands of Americans will be participating in Oxfam America's ninth annual Fast for a World Harvest, and donating the money they save by not eating on that day to support Oxfam's self-help development projects around the world.

Fasting is a symbolic commitment to the hungry people of the world, more than a billion of them. Equally important, Oxfam, an international relief organization, uses the money contributed to help struggling people in 27 countries around the world: village women in India, rug weavers in Mali, refugees in the Horn of Africa, and farmers in Upper Volta, Bolivia and Peru.

Here at Good Shepherd Parish, the Committee on Social Justice is once again sponsoring a church-wide Fast on November 18. We will be collecting the money you save by not eating -- whether for a whole day, or for just one meal -- and mailing it to Oxfam. If you would like to be a part of this effort, please talk to a member of CSJ during the social hour after the service. Persons you can contact include Sherrie Zimbelman, Lourie August, Andrea Kanter and LeRoy Mosley.

addition GSP and Wellington

will co-sponsor an annual Thanksgiving program on world hunger. The date is tentatively set for Wednesday, November 25, but check Newsnotes for specific details. There will be speakers and discussion. Those who attended last year found it informative and challenging.

Together we can make a difference. This year, why not celebrate Thanksgiving by sharing with our hungry sisters and brothers?

(continued from page 5)
goals; one must have done enough planning and budgeting so that one can set aside a sum to give; and one must have that character trait that says it is good to give, within limits--it is part of, and an expression of, productivity.

As the pledge season begins to crescendo this month and next, culminating in pledge Sunday November 21, budget hearings in December and passing of the budget in January, perhaps we should all examine ourselves in these three areas of goal-setting, planning, and "economic character." Perhaps then our church can achieve its goal in this area--a pledge total large enough to support the many activities we want for our church, and a pledge total that people will be faithful in fulfilling.

MONEY AND GIVING

Mark Sherkow,
Stewardship Committee

Our church is dependent, as are other churches, on people giving us their money. The task of the Stewardship Committee is to see that this happens. The subjects of money and giving are, however, complex ones. How people relate to money and giving seems connected with the importance to them of material goods; the degree of goal-setting, planning and budgeting they do; and their general economic character. Giving seems to be part of the larger subjects of material goals, planning and personality.

First, people seem to have different material goals in life. Some people want a lot of things, or things with the right brand names or designer labels; others are satisfied with less or even little at all in this realm. This is sometimes related to what one experienced when growing up; other times it seems more related to the lifestyle one has chosen, or to simply reacting to the economic situation one finds oneself in--whether that be making \$30,000 a year, \$13,000, or \$300,000.

Another aspect is the degree of goal-setting, planning and budgeting one does. Life-planning can range from being very detailed and planned-out to being vague or even non-existent. Our church

would be wise, in fact, to offer people help in this area. One's ability to maintain a weekly pledge to the church is certainly greatly influenced by the degree of goal-setting, planning and budgeting in their lives.

The third area is one which Erich Fromm writes about in his excellent book, The Art of Loving. He writes of four types of people and how they relate to the general subject of giving of oneself (one aspect of loving) and giving economically as one example. One type of personality or trait he calls receptive, exploitative or hoarding. This is the inability to get beyond the stage of wanting or needing. A second type is the market orientation--being willing to give something, provided you get something in return. A third type is the non-productive orientation. This type of person strives for little and therefore feels that he or she has nothing to give and would be impoverished by giving. The final type is the productive character, who has goals, who is productive and consequently rewarded, and who sees giving as an act or expression of her or his productivity.

All three of these aspects seem involved in a person being able to achieve the act of giving. One must be aware of one's material goals and how they fit into one's life, alongside other

(continued on page 8)

REFUGEE UPDATE:

ABANDONMENT ... TO SHARING EXPERIENCES

Scott Phipps

"What makes these people do these things? Things must be pretty bad over there to make these people go to these lengths to go to America." (New York Times, 10/6/82) Trooper Trevino of the Texas Highway Patrol expressed his astonishment upon encountering the truck load of 16 El Salvadorans in Edinburg, Texas in which four had died and the others were in desperate need of medical attention from lack of oxygen. They had been abandoned on the roadside in a refrigerator truck for hours before the state patrol discovered them. Each of them had paid \$1,500 to cross the U.S. border. Some price to pay only to be returned to El Salvador to face military harassment ... an extensive jail sentence ... a firing squad. Some choice.

This is a reminder to all of us that the struggle continues not only in El Salvador but in Central America. The Chicago Religious

Task Force invites you to enlighten yourself and find out why these people are doing this and why the Task Force continues the sanctuary project. As more and more churches and groups find out about this successful project, many requests are made for personal appearances by the Vargas family and the Task Force to explain more. If you would like a visit or more information, call Michael McConnell at 561-5521 or the CRTF at 663-4398.

The Vargas' are still living with us in the church and are becoming quite self-sufficient. The integration of this family into the highly populated Latino community of Lakeview began as Cayetano (the eldest son) started to work at a north side restaurant and the two youngest boys (Herman and Alanso) enrolled in public school. Daniel, Albertina and Angelica (their daughter) are enrolled in La Universidad Popular on Belmont Avenue studying English and the

C.E.D. (high school equivalency test). Daniel is currently looking for work too, and in the meantime he is maintaining a meager income as a tailor. He has a sewing machine here in the church and creates and alters many beautiful garments at very competitive prices. For more information, contact Donna Morris at 524-2896 or Scott Phipps at 728-1943.

Sharing experiences with the Vargas' is very rewarding. I began, like many others, by monitoring, and immediately the warmth and charm of these people won my heart. Since then we have shared their exploration of the Chicago-land area including Lincoln Park, The Loop, the University of Illinois, the airport, Morton Arboretum and the most bizarre: my apartment. If you want to improve your Spanish, try translating an English science book into Spanish for Herman; it certainly proves to me that I need more practice.

If you have yet to meet these refugees, now friends, or are just too shy to make the first approach, contact me and I will introduce you and translate (I hope) what you want to say. They too are attempting to learn another language, and you will find out as I have that you can communicate.

GSP BOARD PASSES NUCLEAR ARMS RESOLUTION

THE FOLLOWING resolution was adopted by GSP's Board of Directors at the October meeting. The vote was 7-1.

As the governments of the world waste their wealth on weapons, thereby diverting resources from relieving human need and from developing human possibility; and subjecting our planet to the peril of annihilation,

And as anxiety about the survival of humanity itself increases,

We, the members of the Board of Directors of Good Shepherd Parish Metropolitan Community Church, Chicago, believing that the nuclear arms race defies the divine will,

Affirm the prophetic calling to struggle for peace and justice for all people, especially the poor;

Commit ourselves to the work of justice, peace, and human community;

Call upon the leaders of our own and every other nation to freeze, reduce, and finally to eliminate nuclear weapons for the sake of the future of humanity;

And declare to all who love this life and this world: In the name of God, Let us speak now, lest our silence once again make us accomplices to holocaust, this one threatening the very existence of humankind.



MCC

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(413)-788-4088

Phillip Eberle & Richard A. Matera
Co-Worship Coordinators

Sunday Rap Group - 5:00 PM
Sunday Services - 7:00 PM

FROM YOUR CO-WORSHIP COORDINATORS:

"Shout to the towns of Judah without fear, 'Here is your God!'" (Is. 40:9). "For the people that walked in darkness has seen a great light." (Is. 9:2). "The virgin is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, ('God-with-us')." (Is. 7:14).

About fifteen years ago there was a profound re-examination in theology brought about by the question, "Is God dead?" These Death of God theologians questioned not the existence of God but the existence of true belief in God in modern American secular society.

Upon close examination of the question, religion was found to be a secular or social habit - a habit like political beliefs or social manners. Today's secularism had converted religious tenets and holy days into business holidays and modern standards for successful behavior. Today the question to be asked is whether or not Christmas has stopped being a religious celebration and has become just another three-day weekend. In Chicago recently, a judge ruled that the city had to place signs at the Nativity display at city hall explaining that the scene was not a promotion of religion or religious sentiments by the city. What, then, we must ask ourselves, does Christmas mean?

The daily routine and work related aggravations continue through a supposed joyous season. People go about the task of shopping and decorating homes and offices out of habit rather than out of faith. What, then, is Christmas all about? It is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ,

our Redeemer. It is the sharing in the spirit of Christ's coming to be among us: the spirit of good will, of cooperation, joy, peace -- of what the Savior came to bring to earth!

I suppose the key word about what Christmas really means is the name that the Prophet Isaiah gave to the child born of a virgin: Isaiah called the promised Messiah by the name IMMANUEL. In Hebrew this name means "God-with-us." How revealing of the true meaning of Vhristmas! We celebrate at Christmas the fact that God is with us! How, then, must we change our attitude? How wonderful it would be to bring the great confidence and joy of this Christmas message to all our friends and family! The loneliness of our human condition is dispelled by the Christmas proclamation: "God is living here among us."

Peace be with you and be reassured that as we celebrate this Christmas feast that truly GOD IS WITH US.

Phil & Richard

FROM THE CLERK:

The regular Board meeting of MCC-Springfield, Ma. was held on Sunday, Nov. 14. Several things were discussed such as donations of stamps and envelopes being gladly accepted. Bob F. is donating the copying which we are very grateful for. All interested members can obtain copies of the minutes.

Volunteers are needed for the Budget Committee. Interested persons please see

Beth and for the Social Action committee please see Frank. Also anyone donating coffee items please see Frank.

We are also going to have a suggestion box and all ideas pertaining to likes and dislikes and rap group topics are welcomed.

We still are pretty new but there is a lot of enthusiasm here and we are going to go places. Why not come and join us! We would love to have you.

Bob Plante, Church Clerk

FROM THE TREASURER:

I would like to thank Phil and Richard for continuing the church spirit. Looking at the response on Stewardship Sunday, I see that it is apparent our commitments will be easily met. Be proud of yourselves and keep up the good work.

During the Nov. 14th. Board meeting, it was decided to set up a Budget committee for the church budget to be put into effect the first of the year. Anyone interested, please see me, Phil, or Richard.

Thank you.

Beth Atwood, Church Treasurer

***** DEACON'S CORNER:

MCC-Springfield remains safe and sound. May the Lord watch over our church family and continue to bless us.

On Thanksgiving, MCC-Springfield had a fund raising dinner. It was a smash success. Frank and I will be eating left-overs until Christmas! Before dinner we celebrated Communion, prayer, and an offering was taken. This offering totaled \$45.00 and it was voted by those present to be designated as a donation for brass Communion ware.

Plans are set to do it again Christmas day at 7:00 PM and the menu is tentatively set for lobster and swordfish. Anyone who can help with the menu or wants to reserve a seat at the table, please contact me as soon as possible. Again, there will be Communion and an offering, but do not be afraid to come. All are welcome!

Isn't Christmas a good time to come and see who we are and what we are all about? I pray that God sees you through the holidays, keeping you happy, safe, and warm!

Yours in Christ,

Michael Atwood, Deacon Candidate

***** CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

December 12 -- Advisory Board of Directors meeting at 4:00 PM.

December 25 -- CHRISTMAS Day - Church dinner at 7:00 PM.

December 26 -- Sunday worship in celebration of Christ's birth.

January 2 -- Epiphany - begin the new year with worship of God in Jesus Christ.

January 9 -- Advisory Board meeting at 4:00 PM.

RAP GROUP:

December 5 -- Gay in the Work Place.

December 12 -- Gay and Getting through the Holidays.

December 19 -- Gay Morality: Is There Such a Thing?

December 26 -- A Funny Thing Happened on the Way out of the Closet!

January 2 -- Promiscuity: What Is It?

January 9 -- Homosexuality and the Bible.

Beginning January 9, 1983 a four week series of sermons dealing with Homosexuality and the Bible will be preached by Richard A. Matera, Co-Worship Coordinator.

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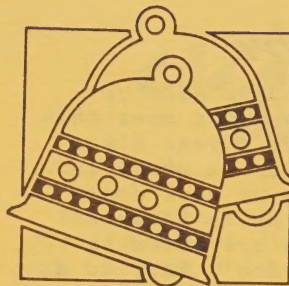


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Metropolitan Community Church of Philadelphia
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Helping with this Month's Bellringer were: Sheila Petri (ed.), Paty Yarger, Brenda Peterson, Ralph White, Joyce Setala, and Mark Brace. Helping with last month's mailing were Paty Yarger, Sheila petri, Ed Byrne, Diane Kemler, Brenda Peterson, and Ralph White.



Metropolitan Community Church
Philadelphia

BELLRINGER

"Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land"

March 1983

MCC Phila to sell building

On Sunday, February 6th, at about 3 p.m., the congregation of MCC Philadelphia met to consider whether to offer the church building at 1706 Fairmount Ave. for sale. In discussing whether or not to sell the building, many people expressed the concern that our mission on this earth is to spread the Good News of God's Love, not support a building. Although it was acknowledged that the building was an important tool of our ministry, most felt that this particular building was more than we could handle. Metropolitan Community Church of Philadelphia is people, not a building.

The congregation voted to

cont'd pg 6

..a note from the new part-time staff minister...

Getting acquainted with a new pastor isn't always easy and getting to know a part-time staff minister well enough to feel comfortable is even more difficult. Since I will only be available for counseling, training, and worship service preparation on Wednesdays, there isn't much time for a chat, so let me tell you a few facts about myself to aid the process.

I've been involved with UFMCC since 1975, served for two years as pastor at Pike's Peak MCC in Colorado Springs, and am now full-time pastor of MCC Christ the Liberator in Princeton. God has blessed me with a loving partner and a teenage daughter, so I have a full, rich home in

cont'd pg 7

The Truth about Inclusive

The first time I thought that the Word was meant only for a few chosen people was the time when I was growing up. I was told that I was better than someone else I knew because I was Catholic. And Catholics are better than just Christians. After all, only Catholics go to heaven... (but what about my friend?)

I knew again that something was better about some people than other people when I was told later on in life that girls could grow up to be nuns and boys could grow up to be priests, bishops, and perhaps someday the Pope... and the Pope was someone whose ring you had to kiss out of reverence...

I grew up with lots of ideas: That God loved me because of this reason of that reason. That God loved me better than some people and less than others. As a child I had been taught these things. As an adult walking with Christ, having a personal relationship with my Lord, I know them not to be true. I learned instead God's truth, which is that Jesus died for all of us, and that God loves us all.

A simple message, a true message. God loves you. God loves me. God loves us. We are loved...not because

of something we have or haven't done; not more than or less than anyone else. We are loved. A whole lot. And nothing we have done has caused us to be loved by God. We are loved by God and we don't have to do anything at all to deserve this love. We are loved by God in a stronger way than we have ever known. And nothing is asked in return.

The truth about inclusiveness as it related to religion is that God is a God for everyone. The reason I go to a church that tries to pray inclusively is because I know that religion is not just for Men, not just for white people, not just for young people or old people it is for all of us. The love of God and the Hope of Salvation through Christ Jesus is the Hope of Salvation for all people. All of us need to be able to worship together, praying with each other, in words all of us can communicate to God with---inclusive words that say God saved us.

There are still churches that exist today where women are thought of as being less worthy than men of God's love. This isn't so.

cont'd p 7

...a note... cont'd

addition to my work.

I first attended MCC Philadelphia about two years ago, and have come to know and love many of you individually as we worship together. You have been in my thoughts and prayers during the past year and I am really excited about the opportunity to minister to you and with you while you search for a full-time pastor.

Stop into the office some Wednesday and tell me about yourself and your spiritual experience. I believe it is possible to minister well to someone only if you know their needs. I'd like to get to know you and to know how I can help to make your worship experience more meaningful. See you in church.

Joyce Setala



Inclusive cont'd

Jesus didn't discriminate when He healed. His power was used to heal all people and His love was for all people... God's love is for all people. We are loved by God. Know that you are loved. And in turn, tell someone else that you know that they ~~too~~ are greatly loved by God. For we are ALL God's children and God's message is for us all.

Paty Yarger



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renovations cont'd

onto the "horses". Work to this point was completed by Rich Thompson and Dick Ramsey, ably assisted by Pat Maguire and Mel Keller.

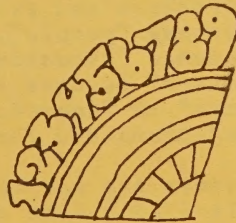
The stairwell then needed to be enclosed from the rest of the building by a one hour fire wall consisting of two by four inch studs with five-eighths inch sheetrock on both sides. Self-closing B-rated fire doors were then installed on the first, second, and third floors.

The furnace had to be enclosed with 70% cement blocks (all unloaded from pallets on the street into the basement) and covered with two sheets of five-eighths inch sheetrock. Each block had to be carefully leveled three ways when placed. The cement blocks and the sheetrock had to be carefully cut to allow passage for all the wires and pipes going to and from the furnace. Barbera exercised a truly marvelous patience, perseverance, and accuracy in completing this complex and arduous project.



building sale cont'd

offer the building for sale, with an initial listing of ten days and an asking price of one hundred thousand dollars, and a subsequent listing of sixty days if the ten day listing failed to generate a buyer. The congregation also voted to establish a three-member building search committee, which will search for a new meeting place to rent or buy, and make recommendations to the Board of Directors. Keith Kohl is one of the members of the building search committee. If you have an idea about a building or want to help, please contact Keith or another member of the building search committee. We are looking for a space in Center City, a safe neighborhood, and office space that is ours exclusively for twenty-four hours a day, with a larger meeting space for Sunday and perhaps one other night a week.



the story behind the building renovations

The church building at 1704-6 Fairmont Avenue had been used as a janitorial supply house and office before we bought it. For us to use the building as a church, we had to apply to the City for a new occupancy permit. In order to obtain the new occupancy permit, the Department of Licenses and Inspections required that we make some modifications to the building to bring it into line with the current fire code. The occupancy permit as a church is necessary to make us exempt from real estate taxes (over \$1700 for 1982-3). The Board of Directors moved to proceed with completing the modifications in December by hiring contractor Barbera Bushing.

Barbera was selected because of her reputation for doing good work, her ability to adjust her work schedule to meet our deadline, and her willingness to work with volunteers. Her working with volunteers meant that we could save the cost of the labor of her helper. (Her having to hire a helper when volunteer labor proved

insufficient was the reason the renovation work exceeded the original cost estimate.) Dick Ramsey, Paty Yarger, Keith Kohl, Mel Keller, Lester Gross, Brenda Peterson, and Ed Gross helped Barbera hammer, paper and paste, move blocks, remove cement and tile, and move lights. Breeze Cooper was indispensable in donating hours and hours of experienced labor hanging doors, finishing the block work, and much more.

The modifications to the building included completing a fire tower from the third floor to the back door, and enclosing the furnace.

Building a fire tower meant that a hole in the third floor had to be cut through one-and-a-half inches of tile, three inches of wire-reinforced concrete, one hardwood and softwood floor, and a sheet metal ceiling. Two "headers", four by twelve inch floor supports, had to be installed at both ends of the new stair hole. Stair "horses" had to be measured, ordered and installed, and stair risers and treads nailed

cont'd p 6

March

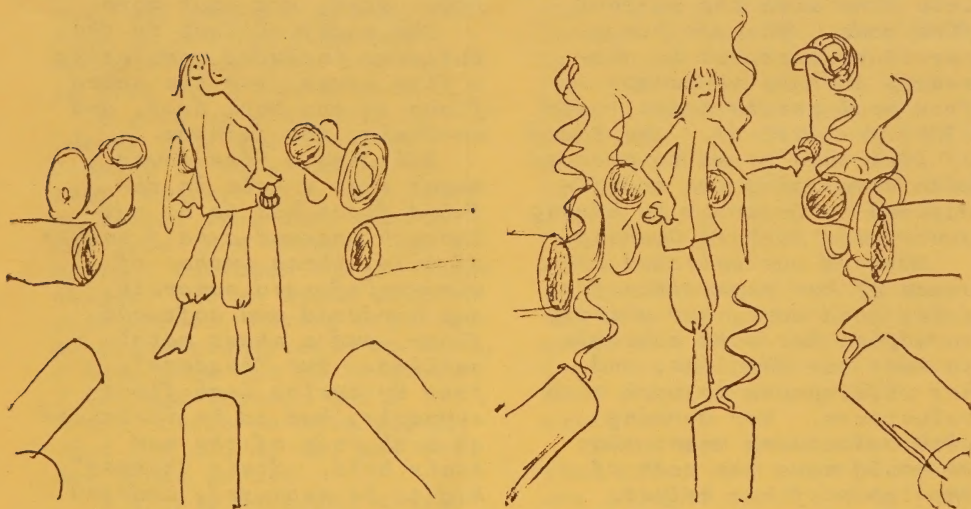
at 1706 Fairmount

SUNDAYS 7:45 pm Evening worship service
(Signed for the hearing-impaired)

5:00 pm Almost Every Sunday Supper Club (AESSC)
at Hobo's (1821 Chestnut St.)

TUESDAYS &
THURSDAYS 7-9 pm Live phone answering by Board Memberd

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 9 7:30 pm Board of Directors meeting



how to make things inclusive

Making an article or scripture reading inclusive can be very difficult. Many people are confused about what to change and how to change it, and the way some things are written doesn't make it easy.

The simple guidelines I follow as the Bellringer editor or as someone entrusted with a scripture reading are these: if "He" or "Him" or "His" refers to Jesus, leave it alone. If it refers to God, the Holy Spirit, or just a general person, change it so that there is reference to no gender of reference to both genders. For example, the phrase "God in His infinite mercy" becomes "God in God's infinite mercy," and the phrase "the Christian when he sings" becomes "the Christian when he/she sings."

References to brothers, men, mankind and forefathers can in the same way be changed to refer to no gender or both genders: "brothers" becomes "brothers and sisters" "men" becomes "people", "mankind" becomes "humankind" and "forefathers" becomes either "forebears" or "ancestors", or "forefathers and foremothers."

Sometimes the easiest way to "inclusify" a hymn of

praise or prayer is to change it from the third to the second person; instead of referring to God as "He", refer to God as "You" (or Thee).

God knows all things, can accomplish all things, and is manifested in all things. God's children come in all shapes, sizes, colors, sexes, and ages. We make an effort in "inclusifying" our language, to remember this.

Sheila Petri

PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY HEALTH ALTERNATIVES

NEW CLINIC LOCATION:

1706 Fairmount Avenue
Philadelphia, PA.

Free convenient parking next to clinic.

New and improved services!

WOMEN'S HEALTH NIGHT EVERY

THURSDAY, 6:00- 9:00 p.m.

GYN CLINIC, EXERCISE, MASSAGE, HYPNOTISM (QUIT SMOKING, LOSE WEIGHT), NUTRITIONAL COUNSELING...

VENEREAL DISEASE SCREENING AND TREATMENT:

FRIDAY NIGHTS, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

SATURDAYS, Noon-4:00 p.m.

To volunteer or make appointments, call 232-8055 or write P.O. Box 7259, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE REPORT

	Sun	Yr Ago	Wed	Yr Ago		Sun	Wed
Dec81	44.5	42.25	12	19.75			16
Jan82	43.8	40.25	21.5	17.25	Dec 5	39	17
Feb82	34	42.25	13	18.5	Dec 12	33	15
Mar82	42.25	44.4	12.4	14.5	Dec 19	49*	10
Apr82	41.5	48.5	13.75	12.2	Dec 26	34	14
May82	37	32.6	18	13	TOTALS	155	72
Jun82	40.5	41.75	14.4	18.5	Aver.	38.75	14.4
Jul82	42.5	35.75	21.5	14.5			
Aug82	34.6	25.8	15.25	9	*Cantata performance		
Sep82	43.75	36	21.6	10.4	Christmas Eve	16	
Oct82	38	40	14.75	12.5	New Year's Eve	22	
Nov82	49.5	40.4	22	14.2			

Illiamo Membership as of December 31, 1983 - 47

***** ***** ***** ***** *****

Never return a kindness--pass it on.

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The Metropolitan Community Church ILLIAMO Lamplighter

Volume 9, Issue 2

Quincy, Illinois

February, 1983

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a
light unto my path." -Psalms 119:105

LOOK INSIDE...

Reid Resigns! - - - - -	see page 10
New Officers Elected- - - - -	see page 3
Record Illiamo Attendance - - - - -	see page 2
Three New Members - - - - -	see page 4
1982 Above Budget!- - - - -	see page 11
Comparing Bible Translations- - - - -	see page 5
Mike Becomes Deacon-Candidate - - - - -	see page 4
How To Be the Devil's Servant - - - - -	see page 8
STD Screening Temporarily Cancelled - - - - -	see page 4
Opportunities To Serve- - - - -	see page 3

RENEWAL SERVICES WITH FREDA AND TEAM FILL HEARTS (and church)

Every evening of the spiritual renewal held at Illiamo January 26-30 was filled with excitement! Many wanted to hear the Rev. Elder Freda Smith preach (some for the first time), others were equally excited about the Rev. Ron Anderson, while everyone wanted to hear the NEW team! Adding to the excitement were visitors from Minneapolis, St. Louis, Springfield (IL), Des Moines and Columbia.

Few, if any were disappointed. A highlight of the week was Ron and Freda drawing straws to see who started a message and who would finish it. Neither knew what the other proposed to preach about. Ron won, and started, and Freda finished with a finale that would measure up to anything she could have prepared in advance! Oh, how the Spirit moved!

Saturday was not without excitement as a record 95 hungering souls crowded into the Illiamo sanctuary (seating capacity is 88) following a talk-back session with Freda and a beautifully executed and delicious soup, sandwich and dessert dinner prepared by Lee McMeins and the congregational dinner committee. (Many thanks!)

Freda preached again at the regular Sunday service with the team doing the music. What an evening. Many hated to see the week end.

As guests headed home to their own churches, Illiamoans gloried in God for another wonderful week of spiritual uplifting.

THE LAMPLIGHTER is the monthly newsletter of
Metropolitan Community Church-Illiamo
802 1/2 Maine, Quincy, Illinois 62301 Phone (217) 224-2800
Reid L. Christensen, Pastor
Ron Anderson, Associate Pastor
Robert Sronce and Charles Rueb, Deacons
Michaelene Howard, Deacon-Candidate

Regular Meeting Times:

Sunday Worship at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday Praise & Prayer Service, 7:30 p.m.

LAMPLIGHTER COMMITTEE: Sharon Davis and Bradley Seager, co-chairs; Terry Goodwin; Russell Hobbs; Robin Schmidt.

Deadline: 3rd Sunday for month following.

FELLOWSHIP FLASHES--news from around the world of U.F.M.C.C.

The Rev. Elder Troy Perry will be traveling throughout the country raising the final payment necessary to produce the MCC film entitled: "God, Gays and the Gospel; This Is Our Story." \$28,000 is to be raised between January 27 and April 10, 1983. Because Illiamo recently hosted Troy, he will not be returning to Quincy although we will have a special offering for the film.

MCC Springfield (IL) is still seeking a pastor. They have had several guest clergy and staff people from churches in the area, including Reid and Mike Howard. (Mike will be preaching there again February 13).

The Rev. Roy Birchard of All God's Children MCC in Minneapolis, MN was recently visiting in Quincy and reports continued growth in that church.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR DECEMBER, 1982

Beginning checkbook balance	\$ 111.71	
Income	\$3,598.12	
Expense	2,080.11	
Ending checkbook balance	\$1,629.72	
Dec wkly avg	\$619.69	Year-to-date
Dec wkly budget	\$385.00	\$273.71
Difference	+\$234.69	Over Budget*

*Praise the Lord!



TANGLEWOOD LETTERS...continued
in our favor for her to get drunk now. If she did, she'd stop going to Whetstone's church, and we'd lose our best source of influence over her.

You can't afford to blow this one, Bindletape. Forget about heavy-handed, show-off maneuvers. This case should really test your abilities. If you are successful, Lord Lucifer just might forget about Case 76058999.

In the name of Lucifer,
Tanglewood

FROM THE STUDY...

This space this month will be used to explain in more depth an announcement given at worship services Sunday, February 6, 1983. I WILL BE RESIGNING FROM THE ILLIAMO PULPIT IN MID-AUGUST OF THIS YEAR.

It has been my understanding that the number of pastors within UFMCC that remain in a pulpit as long as I have can be numbered on one hand! However that in itself is not reason enough to resign. The nearly eight years of service to this congregation have been extremely fulfilling--a start of a new mid-life career--the happiest years of my entire life. I don't leave this family easily or without much thought and prayer. However, the change can be an opportunity for both this congregation and myself to grow even more!

John and I will be moving to Carbondale IL where he will start studying for his doctorate in Health Education. I will start yet another MCC in that city.

Although the primary reason for my leaving is for John to continue his education, we must remember his sacrifice for me these past several years remaining in Quincy. His loving support of me and my ministry have been invaluable to me and this church. It's time for me to be supportive of his career goals!

The transition will not be easy. For many of you, I am the only MCC minister you have ever related to and, for me, you are the only congregation I have served on a full-time basis. Parting will be painful for some of us.

But our lives will go on! The Board of Directors will be seeking a new spiritual leader that can take each of you to a higher level of understanding of God than I was able. And I will be busy proclaiming the Good News to yet another group in another city that hasn't heard 'God Loves You!'

Paul says "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39). Our love for one another is founded in Christ Jesus the same Lord based upon our mutual understanding of scripture. Surely 300 miles cannot separate our love for one another!

You shall ever be in my prayers!

With love, Reid

ELECTIONS HELD, BUDGET PASSED, AT ANNUAL MEETING

Members of MCC Illiamo met for a traditional chili dinner Sunday, January 16 to conduct the affairs of the church.

Written reports were received and read from the pastor, clerk and treasurer as well as all 16 committees and the New Freedom Press operation.

Mike Howard was elected Lay Delegate with John Moore the alternate. Don Grotz was re-elected to a three year term as well as John Moore being elected for the same period. Marilyn Rees was elected to a two year term, filling a vacancy due to death.

An annual budget totaling \$22,820 was also adopted --a slight increase over the 1982 budget but slightly less than actual 1982 income. Although the pastor's salary was cut slightly to accommodate higher operational costs, other reimbursements were increased substantially.

The entire meeting was conducted in complete harmony--indicative of the love that exists in the Illiamo family.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

A member has offered to make another banner for our sanctuary if someone would donate the cost of some materials. Estimated cost: \$5-\$8.

The church is in dire need of a flashlight that works! Any size would be appreciated.

New Freedom Press is busily putting together Ron Anderson's book entitled "The Truth Shall Make You Free." It is expected a second printing will be necessary within the month as well as a second book being readied for printing. Volunteers are urgently needed, that would have some time during the day, for assembling the various pages.

Almost every one of the new chairpersons for 1983 are seeking additional committee members. See the listing on the bulletin board and GET INVOLVED!

The choir is in need of new voices! Soon they begin practicing for an Easter special. Will you be a part?

ILLIAMO INFO...news for and about our church family

FLASH! The STD screening scheduled for February 5 at Irene's Cabaret had to be cancelled due to bad weather conditions. Watch for a rescheduled date!!

We welcome into the Illiamo family three new members: Mark Hobart, a transfer from Holy Spirit MCC in Des Moines and student clergy-candidate; Don Hunter and Grace Rees who have joined by affirmation of faith.

Michaelene Howard has officially been accepted as a deacon-candidate.

Building Maintenance Co-Chairs Brad Seager and Harry Ellis have already found five persons to work on their committee, each taking a specific responsibility weekly.

Social Chairperson Robin Schmidt held the first social event for the year, bowling, on Saturday February 5. Only four members responded.

Flower Co-chairs Karen Kaufman and Liz Koehler had flowers at our first service after they took the responsibility! Beautiful.

Russell Hobbs has cut prices on some items in the book store immediately after taking over the project for the year. Stop, take a look, this is the time to buy!

Several additional committees' have made preliminary plans for their work this year. Are you involved?

Reid will be traveling a great deal in the next few weeks. On February 14 he will leave for a three-day clergy conference in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The weekend of February 26-27-(28) he hopes to accompany John to a conference in Chicago. Then, March 4-5-6-(7-8-9) John will accompany Reid to a Fellowship Finance Committee meeting in San Francisco.

Sunday School has been changed to 6:30 each evening, meeting in the church office.

Stop being so reactionary about the fundamentalist church she is attending. You must learn to stop being so concerned with how much they preach against us. It can work in our favor. Hearing that sort of thing from the pulpit will only deepen Case 76059000's trust in the minister Pastor Whetstone.

That they are a Bible-believing, Bible-preaching church is nothing to take seriously. They take the Bible literally only to condemn others.

For now, when she goes to church, keep her mind on the sermon. Don't get fancy and try to fill her head with visions of naked women. Instead, keep her mind on the sermon so she hears every word and learns to quickly and habitually approve of everything said from the pulpit by this minister. It won't be long before this hell-fire-and-damnation preacher gets on his favorite topic of condemnation--homosexuals.

Yes, we know about the preacher and, no, you needn't try to work on him, too. He already belongs to us. Stuffletape was promoted last year for his success with this preacher. He's doing exactly what we want him to do--preach condemnation fear, judgment, and hatred. We gain converts by means of him every Sunday.

No, you needn't be concerned about her current dislike of bars. Once an alcoholic, always an alcoholic--even if they do go to church.

Pastor Whetstone has preached two Sundays in a row about "demon rum," so that's why she is staying away. This is in our favor. The less she goes to bar, the less she associates with other gays. The more cut off she is from gays, the less protection she'll have when Whetstone begins his onslaught against homosexuals.

Since she is an alcoholic, this period of "white-knuckle" sobriety--which she'll call a "victory over temptation"--will just weaken her further so that, when Whetstone starts condemning gays, she'll crumble our way.

Yes continue to push the image of an ice-cold beer into her mind on warm days as she passes a liquor store or bar. It will do wonders for the growth of her pride each time she can have another "victory over temptation."

But don't overdo it, Bindletape. If she weakens, quickly remove the image and distract her--fast. It is not

Continued bottom next to last page...

TANGLEWOOD LETTERS (from Outreach, MCC Long Beach)

(C.S. Lewis' Screwtape Letters, written in the 1940's, contained letters written by a chief devil known as Screwtape to his nephew devil, Wormwood, whose job was to tempt individuals into the Devil's snares. Lewis' letters originally appears serially in a newspaper. This is a similar letter called "Tanglewood Letters." Our fictional devils are known as Tanglewood and Bindletape. Bindletape's chief is Tanglewood, a master strategist in Satan's army. The human subjects of Bindletape's temptation have only one thing in common: they are all gay. Although our work is purely fictional, Satan--usually called Lord Lucifer by Tanglewood--is still the master liar, so do not expect his agent, Tanglewood, to tell the truth).

Dear Bindletape,

This is your last warning. Our Lord Lucifer is fed up with your show-ff tactics. He will tolerate no more goof-ups.

Who told you to give Case 76058999 such a bad case of the D.T.'s? You overdid it, chump. He got so frightened that he called out to The Enemy for help, and ended up in AA, which is filled with the spirit of The Enemy. He won't be letting down his guard and thinking he can do it on his own again for at least a year or two. Until then, he is beyond our reach. Another white mark on your record like that Bindletape, and you'll be doing eternal guard duty in the Dark Place.

Lucky for you, you picked up on another likely prospect before Lord Lucifer got wind of your dismal failure with Case 76058999. This new one does sound promising. You were right not to be discouraged because she is going to church. Some of our best success stories start in church.

Yes, you are right in your evaluation of why she is going to church. She does have a deeply rooted guilt about being gay. And her drinking is starting to bother her. Thank Lucifer, she hasn't heard about MCC. The longer we can keep her away from other gays who are strongly entrenched in The Enemy's camp, the better our chances for success.

Continued next page...

NEW BOOK RATES CURRENT BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

A helpful new book has appeared that evaluates the nine major English translations of the Bible currently available in the United States. The Word of God, edited by Lloyd R. Bailey (Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982) is a collection of essays by major Bible translators and scholars critiquing and reviewing such versions of the scriptures as the New English Bible, Today's English Version, and the New International Version. The essay on The Living Bible is particularly helpful to persons trying to understand the differences between a paraphrase of scriptures and a translation.

The book does not attempt to "rate" Bible translations as "good," "better," "best," but to explain how a version aimed at easy comprehension (Today's English Version) may not capture the beauty and poetry of the Old Testament as well as the New Jewish Version which is designed for reading aloud in synagogue. Versions designed for private devotions may not work equally well in liturgical settings.

The book also includes a chapter on the history of the King James Version and an appendix evaluating study bibles like The New Chain-Reference Bible and the Oxford annotated editions of TSV and NEB. MCC ministers trying to suggest a good "Bible buy" for parishioners will find authoritative help. The Word of God is up-to-date and unsurpassed!

*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!				
15 - Larry C.		18 - Joe G.		
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
		21 - Marilyn R.		

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ABOUT BIBLE COMMENTARIES

Persons interested in the purchase of Biblical commentaries who desire further help from that provided by Roy Birchard in his recent article, "Buying Biblical Commentaries," might want to obtain the October 1982 issue of Interpretation, a quarterly publication produced by Biblical scholars. The October 1982 issue deals with analysis of current commentary series and helps readers understand the purposes and aims of various commentaries.

Subscriptions are available at \$7.50 per year by writing: Interpretation, Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, 3401 Brooke Road, Richmond, VA 23227.

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
COMING--- Maundy Thursday Services Annual 36-hour Prayer Vigil Easter Sunrise Service		1 Board Meeting, 7:30	2 Praise & Prayer Service, 7:30	3 Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon, 8 (open)	4	5
			- - - New Freedom Evangelistic Team in Oklahoma City - - -			
6 Worship Service, 7:30 Rev. Reid Christensen	7 Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 (open)	8	9 Praise & Prayer Service, 7:30	10 "Homosexuality & Bible" 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous & Al-Anon, 8 (open)	11	12 Bingo, 7
			- - - New Freedom Evangelistic Team in Lawton, OK - - -			
13 Worship Service, 7:30 Rev. Reid Christensen	14 Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 (closed)	15 Reid at Clergy Conference	16 Praise & Prayer Service, 7:30	17 Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon, 8 (open)	18	19
			- - - Team down, Silver Eagle in for front-end repair - - -			
20 Congregational Dinner, 6 Worship Service, 7:30 Rev. Reid Christensen	21 Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 (closed)	22 Staff Meeting, 7:30	23 Praise & Prayer Service, 7:30	24 Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon, 8 (open)	25	26 Bingo, 7
27 Worship Service, 7:30 (Guest Speaker) -Special Offering for Television Special-	28 Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 (closed)	Schedule of Events for F E B R U A R Y, 1 9 8 3 Metropolitan Community Church - ILLIAMO				

The Channel

News from Metropolitan Community Church of Dallas

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the Southwest District Conference May 12-14. This Conference hosted by our Church, will start with a worship service on Thursday evening, special events and workshops on Friday and a meeting Saturday to conduct the business of the District on Saturday.

Specifics on the program and how you can be involved will follow in the next issue. In the meantime examine your resources to help with housing and transportation for those who need it and be ready to show that Dallas hospitality to our brothers and sisters from our 4 state District.

RELATIONSHIP ENRICHMENT SEMINAR March 12th

If you are single or coupled, satisfied or looking, have or hope to ever have a relationship...don't miss this exciting learning experience with Rip Corley, Director, Div. of Counseling. The cost of \$ 30.00 per person is the wisest investment for your life you can make!

LAY PASTORAL CARE PROGRAM BEGINS

The Metropolitan Community Church of Dallas is experiencing a remarkable and exciting growth, both spiritually and in numbers. The dynamic ministries of MCC-Dallas continues to grow as we carry out Jesus' instructions, "Go into the world and preach the 'Good News' to all people." Our outreach is unique because we are a Christian Body committed to assuring a meaningful relationship between God and every individual by the knowledge of Jesus Christ through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Our great task is to reach as many people as possible with the Word of God, adding to the Body of Christian Believers, and yet, maintaining a close "family-fellowship" experience. The Division of Pastoral Care, using some materials from the Schuller Institute, Garden Grove, California, is accomplishing this task through the Lay Pastoral Care Program.

The Lay Pastoral Care Program is designed to assure an increasingly meaningful relationship between each member, each friend of the church and family unit in love, care and concern. The Church membership is divided into geographical units called "Zones", consisting of from 10

to 15 member-families living in close proximity to each other. Each Zone is under the leadership of a "Lay Minister of Pastoral Care." The Lay Minister is a trained representative of this Church who maintains personal contact with member-families in that Lay Minister's assigned Zone.

Lay Ministers of Pastoral Care are trained in basic Bible knowledge and are sensitive to the needs, cares and joys of Christian life by caring and sharing with each member. As a result of personal and consistent contact by a Lay Minister, no member becomes ill, no family is bereaved, or faces a difficulty without the church learning about it and standing with them in prayer. In addition, each person is assisted in becoming involved in the many activities of our great church ministry and encouraged to expand their personal worship through study and prayer.

If you are interested in becoming a Lay Minister of Pastoral Care, we encourage you to contact the church office now for information and an application form.

The Lay Ministers of Pastoral Care are taking the territory for Jesus — get involved — get blessed — Let's continue to grow in the Lord!

WOULD A PERSON ROB GOD?

by DAVID DAY

I shall never forget the first time I attended service at MCC-Dallas. I was shocked that in our community there was such a place with a church building and such a choir and orchestra and musical instruments. There was a full time staff, a deaf ministry which was in evidence and a sound room and coffee after the Sunday Services. All so much more than I had expected. It all served to lend such credibility to what I heard in the service; that here was a congregation that was physically putting into evidence a firm belief that they could worship and serve God through various ministries in the community.

I was and still am overwhelmed at the Standard for Christ that MCC-Dallas carries for a people who otherwise have lived in religious exile. It was not by accident or by magic that all of those things existed when I walked in the door. They were the result of many years of building and working by individuals within this church.

They had given of their time and money to the point of sacrifice. They built, never knowing my name or the names of many others like me who had an emptiness of spirit that was longing to be filled. Giving, working they carved a tunnel that would bring light into the darkness. And the result of their unselfishness and labors stands at Reagan and Brown streets today.

Henry B. Luffberry writes about the "Unwritten Law of the Woods." He says that all through the Adirondack mountains are well-marked trails. Wherever these trails intersect you will usually find an open hut known to climbers as a "lean-to".

When you reach a "lean-to" and lay down your heavy pack at the end of a dreary day, there is always dry firewood inside the shelter, always soft balsam on which to lay your blankets. No ranger employed by the state has cut this wood or laid the balsam for the bed. The last campers there did it before they left.

We are facing a critical period of funding for our church. There are persons whose names we don't even know who will be reached by our church. They will be reached more quickly, in greater numbers and more effectively if we all do our share to keep the standard flying high.

All of what you have comes from God. A portion of that God *expects* to have returned to God's work. The 3rd chapter of Malachi includes these words:

Will a person rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, How have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Ye are cursed with a curse; for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and test me now herewith, saith the God of hosts, If I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Giving someone what is due them is not generosity. God, however, rewards us generously just for giving what is due God from what already belongs to God.

Our generosity with God and our denial of self in honor of God does not come when giving is comfortable and we don't miss it. It comes when the giving is sacrificial. As we begin to deny ourselves and to honor God's purposes in our lives we will experience such an outpouring of God's blessing that we can't contain it. That is the promise — and God can't lie.

Accept the challenge to put God's promise to the test in 1983 and you will experience the finest year you have ever experienced.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL
March 4th, 5th & 6th

Mark the dates! We will celebrate the ministry of The Rev. Jo Crisco, Assistant Minister, AGAPE MCC, Ft. Worth. Be sure & invite friends and family to be present with our beloved Jo.

Services will be:
Fri. Mar. 4, @ 7:15 pm
Sat. Mar. 5, @ 7:15 pm
Sun. Mar. 6, @ 11 am &
7:15 pm

If you don't know Jo, then you will have the double pleasure of meeting a new friend in Christ & participating in her dynamic gospel ministry. If you do know her, you will already be anticipating the blessings of her ministry in song. Y'all come!

COUNSELING CLASSES
March 3rd

A series of classes on the basics of counseling will be offered at MCC Dallas on Thursday nights, starting March 3rd at 7:00 pm. The classes will continue for 6 months, and will be taught by Rip Corley, director of MCC's Division of Counseling. The course is one of our Lay Ministries series. If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office to enroll. The class will meet every Thursday except Maundy Thursday.

OUR PASTOR FOR 5 YEARS

Some people call him Rev. Eastman, some just call him Don---to us who are members and friends of Dallas Metropolitan Community Church, he is Pastor, in every sense of the word. Don often says the chief gift of a Pastor is "leadership". That describes Don's gift to us through the years since February, 1978.

He has been: preacher, office manager, teacher, counselor, consultant, bookkeeper, prodder, personnel manager, volunteer recruiter, staff supervisor, theologian, humanist, public relations front-man, public speaker, evangelist, friend, brother, advisor, supervisor, community leader, encourager, negotiator, board moderator, receptionist, prayer intercessor, helper, and district coordinator...

...IN OTHER WORDS: PASTOR!

The Reverend Don Eastman, Pastor...every church should be so blessed!

Thank you, Don! Thank you for five years of caring about us. Thank you for sharing your life with us. Thank you for your devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ and obedience to the ministry of the gospel that has helped so very many of us either to find or renew our lives through Christ.



GENERAL CONFERENCE
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS
See Patrick Sterling
for special airline
arrangements & special
rates from Loew's
Westbury Hotel for
General Conference,
Toronto, Canada, July
11-17.

SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES

It is not too late to contact Patrick Sterling and enter classes which started Jan. 27th. Beginners' class is from 6:45 to 8 pm; intermediate class is from 8:15 to 9:30 pm each Thursday for 14 weeks, except Maundy Thursday. Advanced classes are taught by appointment for one-on-one instruction.



SKATING PARTY February 21st

Repeat of last year's spills & thrills. Get your tickets now after Sunday services from Social Committee members. \$ 3.00 for an evening of fun at Starlite Skate Odyssey 8-10 p.m.

Dear Member:

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if you only got 1/10th of your pay-check? You would probably go screaming to your boss that you had suffered a terrible injustice and demand the additional amount with an apology. How would you feel if you had put in 142 hrs. overtime and your boss decided that he/she needed a color TV more than you needed that money? You would feel angry and used. Is that how Jesus feels?

We will never know until it is too late. We will never know what a difference our own money, time, and talents would have done for the work of Jesus Christ if we don't commit them to Him. After all, Jesus did not just give one tenth of His life for our sins.

HE GAVE IT ALL!

Won't you give just a portion of your life back to Him?

You will be richly blessed.

Thank you.

Dr. Carol Wald Tokaz,
Stewardship Chairperson



We Care

THE CHANNEL

The Channel is the newsletter of Metropolitan Community Church of Dallas a Chartered Church of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. It is published monthly. MCC Dallas

2701 Reagan
Dallas, Texas 75219

The Metropolitan Community Church is an ecumenical, Christian church for all people.

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the membership of MCC-Dallas or the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Editor David Day
Graphics Steve McGuire
Minister Rev. Don Eastman
Assistant Minister Marge Perry

Pledge for '83

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Phone: _____

I PLEDGE \$ _____ PER WEEK/MONTH
TO METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH TO HELP
CONTINUE THE WORK FOR JESUS THE CHRIST.

Other areas to donate my time or talents:

_____; _____
(signature) (date)

Metropolitan Community Church

The Channel

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Dallas, TX 75219

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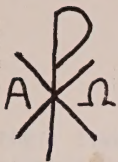
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131 CAMBRIDGE ST
BOSTON

MA 02114



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD

P. O. BOX 15576

Phillip Eberle & Richard A. Matera
Co-Worship Coordinators

SPRINGFIELD, MA. 01105

Sunday Rap Group - 5:00 PM
Sunday Services - 7:00 PM

ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!

Metropolitan Community Church of Springfield is moving! On Sunday, January 23, 1983, MCC-Springfield will begin holding its Rap Group and worship services at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 245 Porter Lake Drive, Springfield. Rap Group will begin at 5:00 PM followed by worship service at 7:00 PM. Please let everyone know of this change. We hope to see you at our new location on Sunday, January 23.

FROM YOUR CO-WORSHIP COORDINATORS:

Do you feel rejected? Do you have guilt feelings because you are told by society and churches that God rejects you because you are homosexual? Do you feel uncomfortable worshipping God or becoming involved with a church because you feel that you are an outsider?

We find that there are only six definite references to homosexuality in the entire Bible. There are 362 Biblical references pertaining to heterosexual behavior. The question we must ask ourselves is why do we condemn all homosexuals because of six Scripture references and not condemn all heterosexuals when there are so many that pertain to their lusts and sins.

I have come to realize by studying the Bible that love is the key to everything. The Bible can be, and has been, used to justify many different kinds of evil. Society has found Scriptures to kill "witches" and to justify slavery and wars, even in the name of Christ. But the Bible clearly preaches: "God so loved the world that God gave the only Son that whoever believes in Him shall have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16). I am here to tell you that God's word states clearly that God loves you! It is time to stop listening to the world and start listening to the Holy Spirit.

We are told very clearly in the Bible to recognize that we are sinners. Then to believe in Christ, that He is the Son of God and has paid the price for our sins. Christ's salvation is a free gift, all you have to do is believe and accept it.

During January, 1983, I will be preaching a series of sermons dealing with the topic of Homosexuality and the Bible. I urge you and your friends to attend and share in this exploration of God's word for us.

God loves you, accept that now and from this time on never turn away from God because of guilt, shame, or what people say! Attend church. We at MCC-Springfield believe that God loves you and does not condemn you in any way.

Richard A. Matera

There is a line in a favorite song which goes, "Let there be peace on earth. And let it begin with me." Those words seem to be especially appropriate in 1983. This is a time which finds so many countries in upheaval and so many people suffering. Across the seas we see countries at war with other countries and within their own borders in the form of civil war. In some nations thousands of people are literally starving to death. In Poland we see people standing in line for hours in order to buy a loaf of bread. Countries in the Mid-east continue to fight in God's name.

In America we suddenly realize that nuclear destruction is no longer found in science fiction films but indeed could happen any day. Unemployment has touched many of us and the four bags of groceries has turned into two.

But we as Christians make a real

Let us all strive to make 1983 a year of world peace. Let us truly rejoice in Jesus Christ. And let the peace of God rule in our hearts. May God truly bless you all in the coming year.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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131 Cambridge Street
Boston, Mass. 02114

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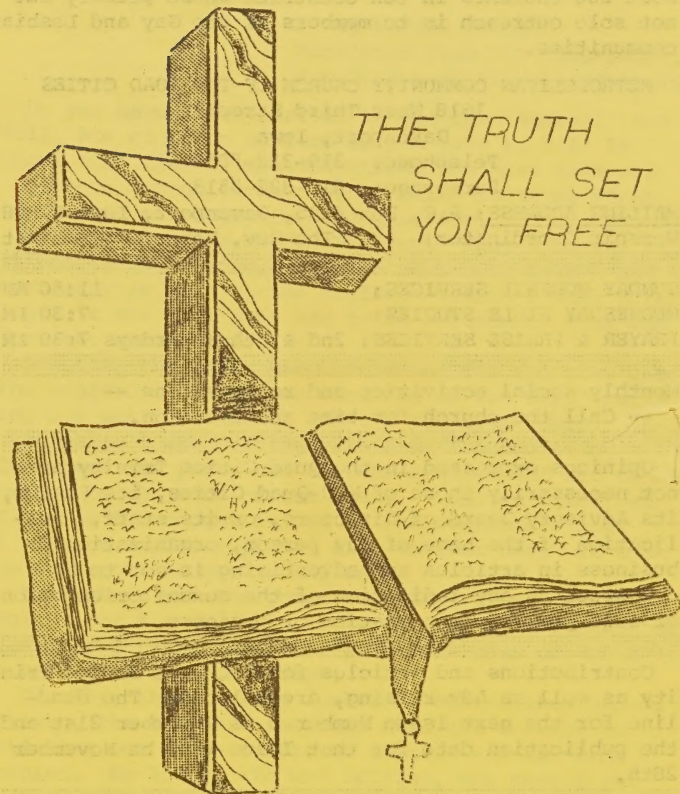
COME LET US ENJOY
AND CELEBRATE ALL OF
THE GOD THINGS IN LIFE!

MCC-QUAD CITIES CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE QUAD CITIES TRINITY

- Oct. 17th - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 Oct. 18th - Monday Choir Practice - 7:00 PM
 Oct. 20th - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 Oct. 22nd - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8:00 PM
 Oct. 23rd - Saturday Prayer/Praise Meeting - 7:30 PM
 Oct. 24th - Sunday Worship Service -- 11:50 AM
 Oct. 25th - Monday Choir Practice - 7:00 PM
 Oct. 27th - Musical Concert - "Second Chapter of Acts"
 at the RKO Orpheum, 7 or 8 PM.
 Oct. 29th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8:00 PM
 Oct. 31st - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 Nov. 1st - Monday Choir Practice - 7:00 PM
 Nov. 3rd - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 Nov. 5th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8:00 PM
 Nov. 6th - Church Cleanup Brigade - 1:00 PM
 Rap Session: HOMOSEXUALITY & THE BIBLE at
 7:30 PM
 Nov. 7th - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 Nov. 8th - Monday Choir Practice - 7:00 PM
 Nov. 10th - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 Nov. 12th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8:00 PM
 Nov. 13th - Board Meeting - 6:00 PM (at Church)
 Saturday Prayer/Praise Meeting - 7:30 PM
 Nov. 14th - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 Nov. 15th - Monday Choir Practice - 7:00 PM
 Nov. 17th - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 Nov. 19th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8:00 PM
 Nov. 20th - POPCORN MINISTRY - Pot Luck Food and
 a night of games - 7:30 PM at ??
 Nov. 21st - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 Nov. 22nd - Monday Choir Practice - 7:00 PM
 Nov. 24th - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 Nov. 25th - THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE - 7:30 PM
 Nov. 26th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8:00 PM
 Nov. 27th - Saturday Prayer/Praise Meeting 7:30 PM
 Nov. 28th - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 Nov. 29th - Monday Choir Practice - 7:00 PM
 Dec. 1st - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 Dec. 3rd - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8:00 PM

ALL ALL ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE AT MCC-QUAD CITIES,
 1618 W. THIRD STREET, DAVENPORT, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
 PLEASE CALL FOR ADDRESS OF POPCORN MINISTRIES, OUR MONT-
 HLY SOCIAL OF FELLOWSHIP, FOOD AND FUN.



THE TRUTH
 SHALL SET
 YOU FREE

The Newsletter of
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE QUAD CITIES
 1618 West Third Street Davenport, Iowa
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4095, Davenport, Iowa 52808

THE QUAD CITIES TRINITY is the Newsletter of Metropolitan Community Church of the Quad Cities, which is a Study Group with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. The UFMCC is an ecumenical, evangelical and eucharistic denomination of almost 200 churches in ten countries whose primary but not sole outreach is to members of the Gay and Lesbian communities.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE QUAD CITIES

1618 West Third Street

Davenport, Iowa

Telephone: 319-322-5055

Parsonage: 319-322-5513

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 4095, Davenport, Iowa 52808

Worship Coordinator: The Rev. Robert Carl Darst

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES: 11:50 AM

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES: 7:30 PM

PRAYER & PRAISE SERVICES: 2nd & 4th Saturdays 7:30 PM

Monthly social activities and rap sessions --

-- Call the church for time and location.

Opinions expressed in the Quad Cities Trinity are not necessarily those of MCC-Quad Cities, its Pastor, its Advisory Board of Directors, or its staff. Publication of the name of any person, organization or business in articles and advertising is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of said person, organization or business.

Contributions and articles for the Quad Cities Trinity as well as Advertising, are welcome! The deadline for the next Issue Number 8 is November 21st and the publication date for that Issue will be November 28th.

ADVERTISING RATES:

Two Page Center Spread.....\$ 30.00
Full Back Page.....\$ 20.00
Full Inside Page.....\$ 15.00
Half Inside Page.....\$ 10.00
Quarter Inside Page.....\$ 5.00

(25% Discount on Ads running more than four issues.)

A	B	A	F	C	T	D	S	F	B	R	E	A	D
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S	A	S	B	D	O	U	G	H	T	O	R	B	I

BIBLICAL FOOD WORD SEARCH

All the food items below can be found horizontally, vertically or diagonally in the opposite puzzle.

ALMONDS (Gen. 43:11)	LIVER (Lev. 9:19)
APPLE (Joel 1:12)	LOCUSTS (Matt. 3:4)
BARLEY (Jer. 41:8)	MANDRAKES (Gen. 30:14)
BEANS (Ezek. 4:9)	MANNA (Exo. 16:35)
BERRIES (Isa. 17:6)	MEAL (Gen. 18:6)
BREAD (Gen. 31:54)	MEAT (Gen. 27:4)
BROTH (Jud. 6:19)	MELONS (Num. 11:5)
BUTTER (Isa. 7:15)	MILK (Ezek. 25:4)
CAKE (Num. 15:20)	MILLET (Ezek. 4:9)
CALF (Luke 15:23)	MINT (Luke 11:42)
CANE (Isa. 43:24)	MUSTARD (Matt. 13:31)
CHEESE (I Sam. 17:18)	NUTS (Gen. 43:11)
CHESTNUT (Gen. 30:37)	OIL (Jer. 41:3)
CHICKEN (Matt. 23:37)	OLIVES (Jud. 15:5)
CINNAMON (Exo. 30:23)	ONIONS (Num. 11:5)
CORN (Gen. 42:5)	POMEGRANATES (Num. 18:28)
CRUMBS (Mark 7:28)	POTAGE (Gen. 25:34)
CUCUMBERS (Num. 11:5)	QUAIL (Exo. 16:13)
DOUGH (Jer. 7:18)	RAISINS (I Sam. 25:18)
EGGS (Isa. 10:14)	ROAST (Exo. 12:8)
FAT (Gen. 45:18)	ROLLS (Ezek. 6:1)
FIGS (Prov. 27:18)	RYE (Isa. 28:25)
FISH (Matt. 7:10)	SALT (Ezra 6:9)
FLOUR (Exo. 29:2)	SPICE (Ezek. 24:10)
GARLIC (Num. 11:5)	VENISON (Gen. 25:28)
GRAPES (Songs 2:13)	VINEGAR (Ruth 2:14)
HAZELNUT (Gen. 30:37)	WAFERS (Exo. 16:31)
HERBS (Luke 11:42)	WHEAT (Exo. 9:32)
HONEY (Matt. 3:4)	WINE (John 4:46)
JUICE (Songs 8:2)	
LAMB (Gen. 22:7)	
LEEKs (Num. 11:5)	
LENTILS (Gen. 24:34)	
LIQUOR (Num. 6:3)	

Next Issue's Word Search will consist of words that can be made using the letters from METROPOLITAN. How many such words can you find?

Empty closets have
no hangups!

GOD AND THE '66 MUSTANG

by Sheila Petri
Reprinted from THE BELLINGER,
Newsletter of MCC Philadelphia

Do you have to be perfect to get into Heaven? No? Well, how close to perfect do you have to be? Is there some list of specifications you have to meet?

Strange though it may be, thinking about my first car helped me to answer this question.

My first car was a 1966 Mustang. When I bought it, it was ten years old. As soon as I bought it I had to have repairs made to the engine. Within a week after I got it the fuel pump had to be replaced. That was just the small stuff.

One time the water pump broke and the fan tore into the radiator, leaving me stranded in Two Guys' parking lot until my father and the tow truck came. Another time I was driving with some friends to a Christmas Eve party and the car stalled and had to be pushed to the side of the road. I had it fixed but I couldn't even get it out of the mechanic's lot. I had the engine replaced with another one. It took me six weeks to get my car back.

Then there was the power steering. For a month I waited for a part while the steering fluid leaked out faster and faster until it reached a rate of about a half pint every two days.

Finally, the steering locked on Wissahickon Drive, driving the car into the high curb and leaving it sticking out into traffic so that it was hit from behind. My lover, who was driving, was shaken but unhurt. The car was totalled.

I haven't mentioned the exhaust pipe, the brakes, the window, the starter motor, and so on. When I am thinking of my car I remember these things but I dismiss them because I remember how I drove to the Pocomos twice and to Provincetown (an 830 mile round trip) twice with not even a flat tire. In fact, I NEVER had a flat tire.

I remember how my car would start in the winter

when nobody else's car would start. I remember how it gave me the mobility I needed when I was living with my parents in New Jersey and had to come to Philadelphia to meet other gay people and go to MCC services.

My car broke down sometimes and cost me a LOT of money in repairs. I forgave it for that. I think of all the times it was there when I needed it. And thinking about this situation with me and my Mustang, I came to realize that that is how God thinks about me. I ask God's forgiveness and it is freely granted. God is not making a list of my sins but is rejoicing over every step I make along God's pathway. God knows that I am human and will sometimes "break down". God loves me. In God's love my human errors are forgotten and my human kindness and love are treasured. It's true for everyone. It's wonderful.

And it means that you don't have to be perfect to get into heaven.



FOR WHERE YOUR
TREASURE IS THERE
WILL YOUR HEART
BE ALSO.....

Come, worship with us at
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF
THE QUAD CITIES

Sundays - 11:50 AM 1618 W. Third
Davenport, Iowa
319-322-5055
319-322-5513

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 4095
Davenport, Iowa 52808

GOOD GAY GRUB

HEAVENLY BLUEBERRY SURPRISE

1/2 cup Butter or Margarine
1 cup All-Purpose Flour
1+1/4 cups sugar, divided
1/8 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 cup Milk
1 pint frozen or fresh Blueberries (if fresh, washed and drained).
1/4 cup Lemon Juice

Melt butter or margarine in an 8-inch square pan; set aside. Combine flour, 1 cup of the sugar, salt, and baking powder; stir in the milk and blueberries. Pour batter over melted butter. Combine 1/4 cup of the sugar with the lemon juice; pour this over the batter. Bake at 350 degrees about 45 to 50 minutes. Yield: 6 to 8 servings. Delicious.

SUIER-EASY POPOVERS

3/4 cup water
1/4 cup butter or margarine
1 cup Bisquick baking mix
4 eggs

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Heat water and butter in a sauce pan to a rolling boil. Add baking mix all at once. Stir vigorously over low heat about 1 and a half minutes or until mixture forms a ball. Remove from heat and beat in eggs, one at a time; continue beating until smooth each time. Drop the dough by well-rounded tablespoonfuls 3 inches apart on aluminum foil-covered baking sheet, or 1/2 full into greased muffin tins. Bake 25 to 30 minutes. Serve warm as Popovers, or cool and fill with pudding or whipped cream as Cream Puffs.

BEDTIME SNACKS

Fresh fruits and cereals make light and refreshing bites-to-eat. Or go solo with the cereals and top with chocolate milk for a change, or softened ice cream or sherbet.

literal words of Jesus, convey the message of our essential worth.

VI. Finally, the religion of Jesus makes a great difference in our lives because it possesses a symbiotic relationship of requirement and provision. Our religion requires a constant renewal of faith, which, working through love, brings Christian maturity. Our religion at the same time provides that renewal through the sharing and caring reinforcement of faith given by our communal worship.

Throughout the history of the Christian church, there have been forms of religion of Jesus which have emphasized faith as the only necessity for life - faith only, to the exclusion of any other elements. Proponents of such theology have taught that "Just believe and adhere to the beliefs and life will be satisfying for you." Its adherents also teach, "If something goes wrong in your life, it's only because your faith wasn't strong enough." Faith which is held too tightly can sometimes be strangled and becomes something that lies limp and dead in our hands and our hearts.

Other forms of religion emphasize works only, to the complete exclusion of faith. Adherents claim it makes little difference what a person believes in terms of dogma or statements of faith. They preach, "It's action that counts!" Their exhortations are "Do good! Serve your sisters and brothers, and you will be worthy of God!" Yet works without faith are equally dead.

Jesus provides the link between faith and works. Jesus came to link them together in the Spirit of God's love made real in human expression. The maturity of life which enables us to walk and not faint comes only as we wed faith and loving service together. A religion based only on faith is irrelevant to human experience and ignores the meaning of life because it is concerned only with a vertical relationship with God. A religion based only on works lacks the vertical relationship that links life with the divine and is concerned only with the horizontal, worldly interactions. Jesus brings the two together in the human life to make possible the kind of religion which renews our strength and gives wings to our efforts and enables us to move through life constantly empowered by God to meet life and to conquer it. Amen.

LeRoy Dysart's *We Are Everywhere*

"Keeping In Touch" is the monthly news and notes sheet which we receive from our Fellowship Offices in Los Angeles. The September 1982 "Keeping In Touch" has a notice that Mr. LeRoy Dysart, a member of MCC in the Valley, has produced a tape of original music. This is a complete album on top quality cassette tape of eleven original songs created and performed by Mr. Dysart, one of America's leading gay male singer/songwriters.

Side one features "We Are Everywhere" (also called the "Theme Song of American Gay People"); "I Love a Man"; "Here We Go Again"; "You Did It Out of Love" (Written especially for the First International Conference of the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Los Angeles, 1982); "No Regrets"; and "Pretty Dreamer".

Side Two features "A New Gay Dawning" (1982 Official Theme Song of the Christopher Street West Festival and Parade); "We Can't Do It Alone"; "Maybe I'll See You"; "Looking Back on Love"; and "Take Me With You".

This cassette can be ordered from Mr. Dysart, at \$ 8.50 per tape with \$ 1.00 first tape, .50 cent additional tape for shipping and handling on USA and Canadian orders. Please make checks or money orders payable to LeRoy Dysart, and mail to LeRoy Dysart, WE ARE EVERYWHERE, 1317 North Tularosa Drive, # 3, Los Angeles, California 90026.

.....even in Davenport

or at least the television audience in Kansas City, Missouri is aware of this. On a recent Sunday, one of K.C.'s stations aired a Worship Service of Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Kansas City in which Rev. John Darbone announced, "Yes, Virginia, there are even gays in Davenport, Iowa." On a recent visit which our Pastor and his spouse, Peter, visited Kansas City after that event, they were introduced as "Yes, Virginia, there are gays in Davenport and here is proof!" Proof also can be seen in "Keeping In Touch" which once again shows us as among the top

ten churches of over 200 in per capita giving.

Our growth is seen also in the beginning of a new choir which first performed last month during Rev. Elder Troy Perry's visit to the Quad Cities. Ron V., who is our Director of Music, is a 19 year old professional musician whose music has really added to our Worship Services.

To compliment the beautiful dove and banner that bears our name on the outside of our storefront, Jim M. has also just carved a large, elegantly crafted Cross which is now on the opposite side of our doorway.

On Saturday, October 9th, Bob and Steve drove up to visit a retired friend of MCC-Quad Cities who has often sent us contributions of stamps and financial assistance, and returned with some home made bread and an armful of sumac leaves and fruit, blueberry leaves, maple branches, and wild cranberries to make an autumnal bouquet for the Altar that Sunday along with some lovely lavender asters given by Ted.

We had a most successful Yard Sale/Dake Sale which featured all kinds of goodies - Applesauce Cupcakes, Chocolate Macaroons, Oatmeal Cookies, Carrot Cake Cupcakes, Chocolate Chip Chocolate Cookies, Gumdrops, Ambrosia Cookies, Spicey Raisin Hermits, Cocoa Butter-milk Brownies and Fudge Brownies. Is it time for Weight Watchers again?

HAVE YOU EVER DECIDED TO STOP DRINKING FOR A WEEK OR SO AND FOUND THAT YOU COULDN'T GO THREE DAYS WITHOUT A DRINK?

DO YOU WISH PEOPLE WOULD MIND THEIR OWN BUSINESS AND STOP TELLING YOU YOU MIGHT HAVE A DRINKING PROBLEM?

DO YOU EVER LIE ABOUT THE QUANTITY OF ALCOHOL OR BEER THAT YOU HAVE ACTUALLY CONSUMED?

---then maybe ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS can help!

GAY ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

OPEN DISCUSSION MEETING

EVERY FRIDAY

8:00 P.M.

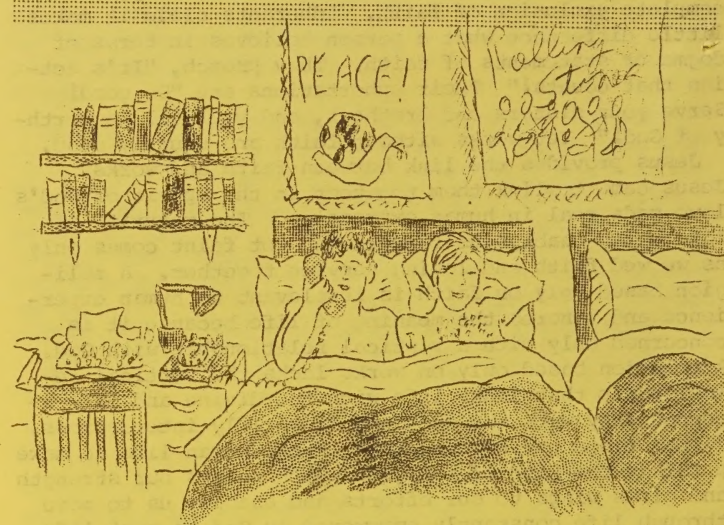
1618 West Third Street

Davenport

Page 6

the admonition, "STIR UP THE GIFT OF GOD THAT IS WITHIN YOU." It is the development of these God-given inner resources that gives Christians the strength to face life and know that we have power beyond our own, allowing us to run and not become weary, to walk into fire without fainting, and to soar on new wings.

V. The religion of Jesus instills us with an estimate of the essential worth of human life. The reason so many have failed and given up on life is that they have not been able to give an estimate of life's worth. In the very first sermon Jesus preached to his home congregation, recorded in Luke 4:18-19, he spoke of his ministry as designed to bring new life and hope into hearts which were hungering, hearts which had given up because life seemed to hold so little for them. In its very charter, as Jesus expounded it, the Christian faith speaks to every person and says, "YOU ARE OF WORTH. YOUR LIFE COUNTS. YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE MOST PRICELESS POSSESSION GOD CAN GIVE. YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN HUMAN PERSONALITY. YOU ARE SACRED BECAUSE LIFE IS SACRED. LIVE UP TO THE ESTIMATE OF WORTH GOD HAS PLACED ON YOUR LIFE." These, although not the



"Really, Mom, there's no need to worry just because the dorm's gone coed."

Page 15

THE LOST." We have often been just as lost as Zaccheus in our selfish motivations and resentments, and we, like him, have been found by the seeking Savior and given new direction, new meaning, new purpose - all which enrich our lives beyond anything we could have ever anticipated.

IV. The religion of Jesus helps us to develop our God-given inner resources of spiritual vitality. Jesus has a way of looking deep into the hearts of those he met. He never judged them for what they were but instead looked at them and saw them for the potential of what they could become.

Jesus called the rough fishermen like Peter and James and John, rude illiterates who caught fish for a livelihood. He said, "COME, FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF SOULS." Jesus saw the scarlet harlot who knelt to wash his feet with her grateful tears, and all he saw was the possibility of beauty and strength and purity that were within her and she became Mary Magdalene who was blessed to be the first to bear the glad, good news of the resurrection to a frightened world.

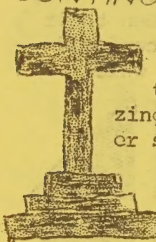
Jesus saw the possibilities that were within the rich, young man who turned away, unwilling to pay the price of discipleship. He also saw the possibilities that were within the woman at the well in Samaria, who did respond and became the first evangelist to bring others unto Jesus for the cleansing, changing vitality which she herself had received. Even the risen, living Savior was able to see in the hardened and vicious heart of Saul of Tarsus and see the possibilities of Paul the Apostle just as well as seeing into the mercenary and materialistic heart of the business-minded Lydia in Philippi and see the possibilities that made her and her family the very first converts to Christianity outside of the Jewish world.

Jesus knew their possibilities because these qualities were God-given. Jesus only summoned them forth to endow the leadership of the early church as they campaigned throughout the world on behalf of the Christian faith. Jesus woke those resources within them just as the living Savior continues to waken those resources which are within us to give us this same new vitality of spirit which motivates our mission.

Among the many words Paul wrote to young Timothy is

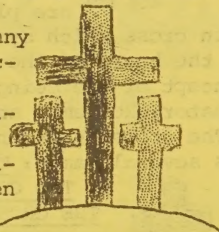
CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

CONTINUED FROM OUR LAST ISSUE



THE CALVARY CROSS, also frequently known as the Graded Cross, stands upon three graded steps, the top one symbolizing Faith, the center one Hope, and the lower step symbolizing Love.

THE GOLGOTHA CROSS is any trio of crosses, especially when shown on a hillside, which symbolize Golgotha or Calvary, the hill where the two malefactors were crucified on each side with Christ between them.

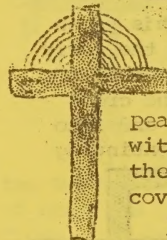
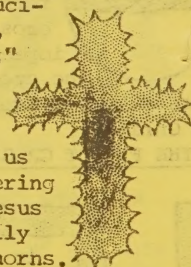


THE CROSS OF GETHSEMANE is formed

by showing a Passion Cross rising up from out of a chalice, and represents the agony of the Garden of Gethsemane the night before Christ's crucifixion, when Jesus prayed, "Let this cup pass from me."

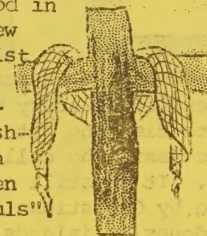


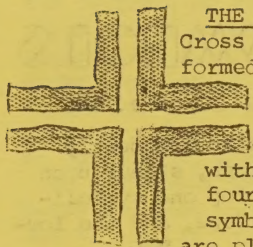
THE CROSS ENGRAILED is the name for any carved or molded cross of sharpened spikes or thorns, reminding us most visually of the sharpness of suffering and the thorniness of the pain which Jesus endured on Calvary, especially in wearing the Crown of Thorns.



THE RAINBOW CROSS is the name of one behind which a rainbow is superimposed, and it stands for reconciliation and peace, as a reminder of God's first covenant with humanity after the flood in the days of Noah, and the new covenant of adoption in Christ.

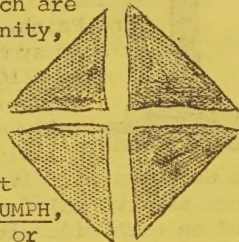
THE SAGENE CROSS is one named after the type of fishnets commonly used by the Galilean fishermen. When draped over a cross, such a fishnet recalls that we have all been commissioned to become "fishers of souls"





THE GAMMATA CROSS, also known as the Cross Gamme, is so called because it is formed by positioning four of the L-shaped Greek Gammas in such a way as to form a cross between their arms. It is sometimes confused

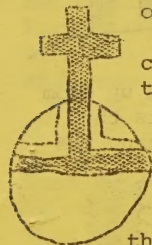
with THE TRI-UNITY CROSS in which four triangles, which are symbols for the Trinity,



are placed to form an

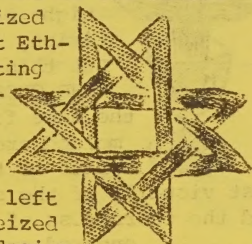
open cross which symbolizes Christ is the heart of the Trinitarian concept of God being known as Creator, Redeemer and Comforter.

The cross shown in the center left has several names: THE CROSS OF TRIUMPH,



or THE CROSS OF VICTORY, or THE CROSS AND ORB. It is formed by a Latin cross surmounting a globe, and symbolizes the triumph or victory of the Gospel story throughout the entire world.

THE OCTAGONAL CROSS, one of the oldest forms of highly stylized crosses, is an ancient Ethiopian design representing the eternity of life possessed by believers and followers of Christ.

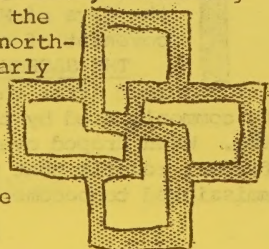
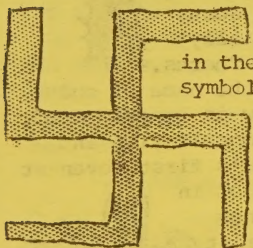


THE FYLFOT CROSS, shown in its

basic form at left and in a stylized Scandinavian design

in the lower right corner. This pagan symbol was adopted for use by the early Christians in the catacombs and was the only form of the cross used during the Second and into the Third Centuries, continuing in use among the middle- and north-

ern-European churches until the early Twentieth Century when it fell into disgrace after being used by the Nazis who called it a Swastika. It is still often seen in use by Christians in India and the Indonesian islands.



The Gospel of Luke tells the beautiful story of the tax collector known as Zaccheus who was so short he had to climb a tree to see Jesus. Zaccheus came down out of the tree to meet the one whom to him became the Master, just as we have come out of our closets to do the same, embracing Jesus as the Sovereign in our lives. Zaccheus' whole direction in life was changed completely and his purpose no longer was self-serving but became self-building through his service to others. And have we not changed? Is it not by that change that we are recognized as Christians? Some people have even suggested we cannot be true Christians unless our lives give evidence of that change which Jesus causes within us. The final comment made by Jesus in the story of Zaccheus is in Luke 19:10: "THE SON OF HUMANITY HAS COME TO SEEK AND SAVE

MCC'S DEACONS PANTRY

In an effort to help provide food for members of our community who are in need, and thus fulfill the instructions of Christ to feed the sheep, MCC-Quad Cities is asking members and friends to help us stock a Deacons Pantry by bringing one or more of the following items to Church each week:

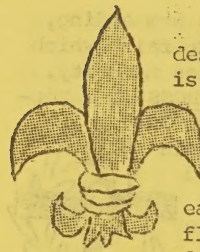
Oct. 17th...Jar of Instant Coffee or Canned Applesauce
Oct. 24th.....Canned Peaches or Cream of Mushroom Soup
Oct. 31st.....Canned Beans or Box of Hot Cocoa Mix
Nov. 7th.....Jar of Jam/Jelly or Box of Oatmeal
Nov. 14th.....Canned Green Beans or Canned Beef Stew
Nov. 21st.....Bag of Rice or Canned Chicken Soup
Nov. 28th.....Canned Pears or Canned Tuna or Salmon
Dec. 5th.....Canned Spaghetti or Canned Peas
Dec. 12th.....Canned Corn or Canned Tomato Soup
Dec. 19th.....Canned Chili or Two Jars of Baby Food
Dec. 26th.....Jar of Peanut Butter or Canned Veg. Soup

Of course, any donations of non-perishable food items are always welcome, as are any donations of cash to purchase perishable dairy products, bread and meat. May God bless you real, real good!

sions of happiness and joy. The Jesus which we discover in the bible, the church, and in this Fellowship can and has saved us from those illusions of living. In the 8th Chapter of John's Gospel, after Jesus had caused them to release the woman they were going to stone for adultery, Jesus preached about the light of the world and closed with these words found in Verses 31 and 32: "IF YE CONTINUE IN MY WORD, THEN ARE YE MY DISCIPLES IN DEED, AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE." When we bring the focus of God's truth, as revealed by Jesus Christ, into the places where our lives are lived, we gain a divine perspective on our human predicaments and situations.

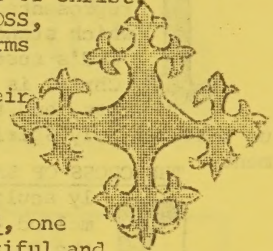
It is only with this perspective of God's truth that we can make sense out of life. Jesus taught us that the deeper meaning of life is to be found in the life lived from God, lived with God at its center, and lived for God. That calls for us to have total trust in God's power, total immersion in God's love, and total strength through God's grace and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is this genuine joy and hope which the modern men and women ridicule. Those who cannot embrace this religion would rather trust their own power than trust in God's. They are unable to accept God's love for many different reasons, perhaps most frequently because they refuse to allow God's grace to pierce the armorment of their protective shields of selfishness and shame.

III. The religion of Jesus gives life direction and purpose. We see so many people who seem to be just meandering their way through life. Many of us have been there, so we recognize it easily. They seem to have no other satisfying purpose in life other than filling their transitory sensual pleasures. They move without direction, aimless and dull. Many of us have been there, some of us may still be there. The religion of Jesus gives direction and purpose for Jesus does more than just suggest that every life has the purpose of living unto the Sovereign God. With a surrender to the gifts of the Spirit, especially the fruits of love, temperance, peace and meekness, we find our lives set in the direction of meaning and purpose that brings life a rich fullness and overflowing joyousness which last for eternity rather than for a few brief moments of pleasure or release. Christianity does not destroy our pleasures, it enhances them.



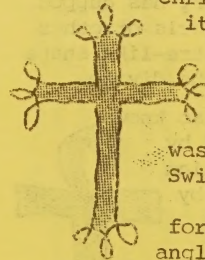
THE FLEUR-DE-LIS is an ancient French design of a highly stylized lily which is used not only as a symbol of the Trinity, but also is used as a symbol of Mary, the mother of Christ.

THE TRINITY CROSS, with its equal arms each bearing three fleur-de-lis at their ends, popular in use during the Byzantine and Gothic eras, symbolizes the Trinity of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit.



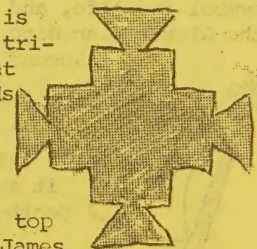
THE TRIPARTED CROSS, one of the most beautiful and intricate symbols of the Trinity, has three vertical arms interwoven with three horizontal ones, and its Trinitarian symbolism is further enhanced by the stylized fleur-de-lis endings on its trine arms.

THE CROSS AND TRIANGLE is a symbol used most frequently in church embroidery. Here the cross is intertwined with the triangle, emphasizing that Christ is one of the Holy Trinity.



THE CROSS CLECHÉE has the form of the fleur-de-lis cross with looped petals instead of the more commonly seen flowering ends. It was popular among Reformationists in Switzerland.

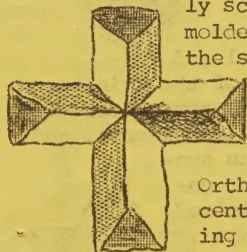
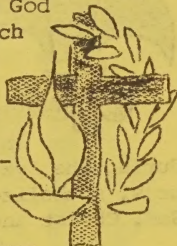
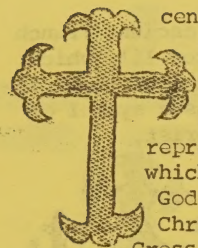
THE BELGIUM CROSS is formed by four small triangles, which represent the Trinity, intercrossed at the ends of each arm of a Latin or a Greek Cross. It dates back to Medieval Belgium and France and is rarely seen today.



THE PARAGON CROSS, shown at the top of Page 10, is similar to the St. James Cross shown in the last issue, and combines a budded

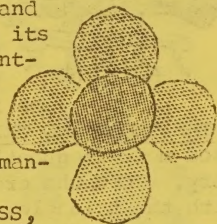
center to each fleur-di-lis arm ending, signifying the child-like faith which should mark our Christian maturity.

THE APOSTLES' CREED CROSS is a popular Lutheran symbol with God represented by the leafy branch which stands for Creation and God's sustaining activity, Christ is represented by the Cross, and the flame reminds us that the Holy Spirit is our enlightenment.



THE CROSS OF SANCTITY is a sharply sculptured, carved or molded cross which symbolizes the soaring rise to heights of glory from the depths of the human condition known before Christ.

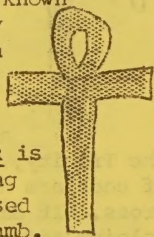
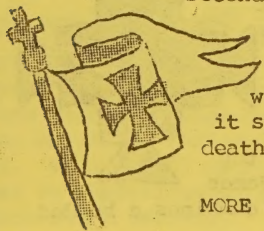
THE CROSS DEZANT, very popular among Slovakian and Orthodox designs, has its center circle representing eternity connecting the wholeness of God, of Christ, of the Holy Spirit, and of humanity.



THE SCEITRE CROSS, usually of gold or silver, has cupped ends which embrace small pearls or other precious stones. It's sceptre-like shape symbolizes the royalty of the divine Christ.

THE CRUX ANSATHE, also known as the Ankh Cross, is formed by adding a cross bar to the ancient Egyptian symbol for life, and it was first used by the Alexandrian Rite Orthodoxy in the Second Century.

THE CHRISTIAN BANNER is a symbol of rejoicing and victory. When used with the figure of a lamb, it symbolizes the joyful victory over death won by Christ as our Redeemer.



WHAT CAN THE RELIGION OF JESUS DO FOR YOU?

Pastor Darst's Sermon for October 10th

"Those who wait for the Sovereign God will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary."

Isaiah 40:31

Hoover Rupert has written some commentaries regarding the Old Testament prophet Isaiah in which he examined and shared what the religion of Jesus can do for us, and today I want to share some of those thoughts with you along with some of the things which his writings caused me to consider.

Modern men and women --- and I use that term "Modern men and women" to describe those for whom the Christian religion, in their terms, is too tame for their needs in the world --- those who sometimes claim that the religion of Jesus is nothing more than pious hope, or nothing more than a bunch of sissy stuff, or just a lot of psychological hype to keep its believers moderately happy.

I. The religion of Jesus is definately MORE than pious hope or hype. When it is embraced fully with one's heart, it makes us far MORE than just moderately happy. It's not sissy stuff, for it forces us to look at ourselves with painful honesty, to face up to our shortcomings and faults by comparing ourselves and our behavior and our actions and attitudes with the most perfect model we have ever been provided - the role model of Jesus. And that's tough stuff, believe me. Our religion of Jesus forces us to see ourselves and to work towards means and ways to correct these defects so that we can more perfectly mirror the spirit of Jesus. It forces us to grow in love and gentleness and patience and all the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

II. The religion of Jesus not only forces us to make sense of ourselves, but it helps us to make sense out of life. How well we understand the need and desire to make sense out of our existence. WHO are we? WHAT are we? WHY are we? Sometimes we have been so desperate in that search for the meaning of life that we have fallen at times into the trap of living illus-

MORE CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS NEXT ISSUE!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from All of Us to You!

The Christmas holidays will find the team on a five week break: Beth and Barb will be spending time in Miami and Key West. Ron and Jerry will be in Houston as well as Ron's mother. Freeda-B (the bus) will spend the time at the Bus Hospital in Dallas, Texas,

hopefully being repaired and prepared for the coming year's West and East coast tours.

The New Year will find the team starting on the field with the expectations of the best year yet in reaching all people with the Good News in song testimony, sermon, and through

puppets. The team covets your prayers as they pray for one or two new team members for this coming year. The thanks and appreciation that the team and staff feels for all of your support and prayers cannot be put into words. But, we all realize that this ministry is not just the team

or staff, but the thousands of you that join in with the team to reach people through evangelism. This ministry is truly "people" ministry! We all wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a very productive, spirit-filled, Happy New Year!

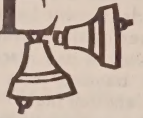


New Freedom Evangelistic Team, Inc.

EVANGELITE

P.O. Box 1188, Quincy, IL 62306

DECEMBER, 1982—JANUARY, 1983



FAMILY HAPPENINGS

AUSTIN, TX—MCC

The team was so excited when they arrived in Austin, because they would get to see Joe and Mark again. Besides, the Austin MCC is full of friends that the team hadn't seen for a long time. Services were held in a beautiful church sanctuary that had been rented for the renewal week. It was thrilling to see how much the church has grown in number and in spirit. Praise God for the miracles that have happened in Austin, Texas!

Services started on Wednesday and it was very evident that everyone was in for a beautiful week. Joe, former team member, played the piano during every service along with Ron on the organ. It was like old times again. Rev. Joan Wakeford, the pastor, attended the Wednesday evening service, but was sick the rest of the week and had to miss the services. Everyone continued to pray for her at every service. It was like God had said, "You will lie down

in green pastures." Joan had been working long hours and really needed a rest. The team did get to visit with Joan at some length on Thursday during the day and God really blessed this time of sharing.

The "Revelations", a singing group at the Austin church, joined in with the New Freedom Team on Saturday night in concert! Wow! What a service!!! The Lord has really blessed this quartet from Austin and if you

ever get a chance to hear them or have them at your church, do it! They are a real blessing.

May God continue to bless all of you in Austin, Texas. The team and smaller groups that the team goes to appreciate your continued monthly support and prayers. Praise God for Austin!!!

SAN ANTONIO, TX—MCC

An oasis in the desert—a city with a river flowing in the middle of downtown! There's River Walk, the Spanish Missions (remember the Alamo?) and many other splendid sights to see. It was a blessed week of Spiritual Renewal at San Antonio MCC where the warmth of a family extended itself in love to the new team members. The blessings poured abundantly from our Lord as praise and singing uplifted this wonderful

HELP!

A severe cash-flow problem has developed for the team as a result of changes in personnel, declining revenues and some much-needed repair work on the Silver Eagle.

YOU CAN HELP!

We're asking each one of you that receives the *Evangelite* to send \$1 to alleviate this short-term crises. Send to:

New Freedom Evangelistic Team
P.O. Box 1188
Quincy, IL 62306

Thank You!

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PAGE • • •

NEXT

FAMILY HAPPENINGS ...CONTINUED

fellowship. The Revelation Singers from Austin, Texas, added to the Saturday night worship service, and also combined with the team in a truly uplifting time in the Spirit. Pastor Jim Lewey certainly has a dedicated group of believers—a blessing to all who attend MCC. The team was given transportation by a deacon in the church who truly treated the team with royalty. The team sends its many thanks to those individuals who gave so much of their love and time to the team.

HOUSTON, TX—MCC

The team arrived in Houston and it was a reunion with old friends. Rarely have so many former team members been together in one place. Joe and Mark traveled from Austin for the Saturday night concert. Joe played the piano which brought back many memories. Annette, one of the founding team members of 1976, attended the services and shared her enthusiasm and love with everyone. Nancy, who traveled with the team for a year, attended the services and truly shared her love and support of the team with the congregation and the team members. Because of so many requests Scooter and Mark both sang their solos that were so popular while they were on the team. Mark sang, "The Blood Shall Never Lose Its Power" and Scooter sang, "My Tribute". All the team members, both former and new, gathered together on the platform to close the concert and the large building where MCC of the Resurrection meets was filled with nostalgia!

The team was entertained with meals, an anniversary party, and a trip to Galveston. An automobile was loaned to the team for the week and the team members from Florida truly enjoyed seeing the beach after being inland so many months.

The team is especially thankful to the Houston church for its gracious support throughout the past six years. Many thousands of people have been blessed, because of the

Houston MCC and its dedication to reaching All People with the Good News. Thank you MCCR!!!

TEMPLE, TX—MCC

The team is always happy to visit a church that is just getting started and was glad to have been invited to give a concert in Temple. This Study Group, which started a few months ago, is an enthusiastic congregation. The concert was held in the comfortably appointed meeting room of a local motel. Visitors from Austin and San Antonio were welcomed by all. Following the joy-filled service, the team, congregation and visitors enjoyed a festive potluck dinner at the home of two members.

The team's prayers and best wishes are with this budding congregation. Please keep Temple, Texas, in your prayers. God bless you Temple!

WICHITA, KS—MCC

The team arrived in Wichita and went to the address of the church where they received a big surprise and blessing. There was a note on the door that gave the directions to the NEW CHURCH! "Wow, they are in the new church! Praise the Lord!", was heard from all the team members. It was a time of rejoicing as they pulled up in front of the new building.

The team really had a nice Spiritual Renewal while in Wichita. It is where the new bus was converted into the beautiful home it is now. So, it was really neat to be in Wichita and see the family that has been such a help in past years. The team parked at a local KOA and was supplied a beautiful car for the week. Beautiful meals, fellowship and guests at the "Our Fantasy" (a beautiful bar-restaurant owned by an MCC member) added to the week of rejoicing and renewal. The team also received clothes and free haircuts. The haircuts should be called "mater pieces of styling", because they were!

The team received another blessing on Saturday night when women showed up from Tulsa

Oklahoma. They had driven all the way to Wichita just for the Saturday night concert and then returned that night. It really made the team feel great that they would come all that distance to be a blessing and receive a blessing!

Praise God for Wichita. May they keep growing, growing and growing. Amen!

COLUMBIA, MO—UCMC

The Spirit really flowed in Columbia, the love was just great and the team received just as much blessing as the church. People came in from Springfield, Kansas City, St. Louis, Mexico (Missouri), Lebanon, Viburnum, Bunceton, and then Friday night the team was real surprised when a large group (the team staff) came in from Quincy, Illinois. It truly was a night full of spirit.

The pastor, Rev. Jeanne Leggett, was one of the founders of the team in 1976. It was a real joy to see the reunion between Jeanne and Ron. She is truly a great person and it was such a blessing for the team to hear past stories of the team when it first started. Another blessing was Ron's mother and her friend, Bernice, who came down from Kansas City and stayed on the bus. Then, the team was blessed on Sunday with a pounding (food) that filled up the bus with all kinds of good things. What blessings with the meals, visiting, rejoicing, loving, sharing and worshiping in Columbia.

Thank you Columbia for all your love and support!

MINNEAPOLIS, MN—MCC

The team arrived in Minneapolis practically between the snow flakes. The windshield wipers don't work, so members were praying that the snow sighted on passing car tops would remain off the front of the bus. Praise Jesus!! He again answered prayers and the snow didn't come down until the moment the bus was parked for the night.

The following day the team, aided by straw and bricks under

four tires, had the unique experience of pushing forty tons of "Freed-B" out of the gooey, thick mud!

St. Paul and Minneapolis have merged into one wonderful loving congregation. Enthusiasm and attendance ran high from beginning to end. This is a church with a strong outreach to parents, and the Saturday workshops were very well attended by both members and their mothers and fathers.

In spite of ice, snow, and sub-freezing temperatures, the brothers and sisters in Twin Cities poured out in record numbers to be fed spiritually and praise the Lord with the team. The congregation has grown to the point of standing room only and is actively seeking a larger facility. They have met all their previous goals and confidence is high that the Lord will lead them to a new church building in time for Christmas. Blessings are flowing abundantly in the gathering of generous, dedicated Christians.

A number of "care packages" were given to the team on Sunday, filled with food and medical supplies. A case of anti-freeze was also donated for Freed-B and the team left on the road toward Des Moines, Iowa, with lots of sunshine and fond memories of "All God's Children MCC".

SUPPORT THE TEAM IN PRAYER

Mailing address for all correspondence to Rev. Ron Anderson or the team is:

NFET
PO Box 1188
Quincy, IL 62306

The message phone number is: (217) 224-2800, Reid Christensen. Reid is able to give you the location and phone number of the team. He also is in charge of the offices and scheduling of renewals.

LONELINESS

(Evangelical Newsletter, Nov. 12, 1982)

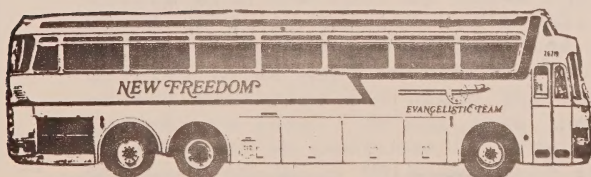
Churches may have the antidote for a spreading epidemic: Loneliness. Writing in *The New York Times Magazine* (August 15) Louise Bernikow refers to a quotation that seems all the more true now: "As early as the 1830's, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote about the loneliness of Americans, describing the citizens of this country as 'locked in the solitude of their own hearts'." Bernikow continues ("Alone: Yearning for Companionship in America"): "People can be lonely in isolation or lonely in a crowd; lonely because they are with someone they can no longer reach."

Current studies reveal the dangers of loneliness: "...the physical and emotional consequences of loneliness pose greater dangers than anyone thought...And loneliness may have a larger impact on society than we have realized." Some studies have had unexpected conclusions: "Adolescents appear to be more plagued by loneliness than anyone else; older people, surprisingly, may be less so."

Bernikow recognizes that easy travel and communication make possible more close contact. But there is still widespread feeling that relationships are inadequate. "To some extent, experts say, it has to do with the ascendancy of a culture that places so much emphasis on acquiring possessions and status that people devote little time or energy to forming and maintaining relationships...because of increasing freedom and mobility, ties to spouses, family, church, and community unravel more easily." Bernikow notes that almost one-fourth of our population lives alone; among them are many who are divorced and people under 40 who have chosen not to marry. "America's divorce rate is not only the highest in the world, it is also the highest it has even been: One out of every two marriages now fails."

Bernikow's long article is supported with evidence from varied studies and by many examples. Part of the lonely person's difficulty may focus on a serious tension: "Our increasing loneliness is not only a yearning for companionship. People feel alone when they don't belong to something larger, when they don't feel connected to a 'family' or a 'community'...Too many of us, however, are ambivalent about the spaces between us. We want independence and a faithful lover, we want the support of a family but we don't want the demands (commitments) that all of this takes, we want a community but we don't want to conform to its codes."

PRAY FOR TEAM SUCCESS IN 1983



**You're active participation is necessary
to assure continued team success!**

A Hearty Welcome and a Sad Farewell

The team is very excited in greeting its newest member. His name is Jerry Holloway and is from Lubbock, Texas. He has a lot of experience in secretarial work and is a much needed addition to all the paper work (correspondence, typing, etc.) that has to be done on the bus. He also runs the sound system, helps in the bookstore, gives his testimony, and sings. His testimony has already touched many hundreds of people. It has been such a thrill to the team to watch the spiritual growth within Jerry during the time that he has been on the team. Welcome aboard, Jerry!!!

The team also has had a time of sadness. Dale and Steve had

to leave the team between the Temple service and the Wichita spiritual renewal. Many personal problems had to be taken care of immediately and they could not be done while Steve and Dale were on the team many miles away from Florida. Dale and Steve have been on the team since January and have been such a blessing to many churches with their singing and testimonies. The team and staff pray that many more blessings will pour out upon Dale and Steve as they go forward for Jesus Christ in the future. The team and staff also appreciate and rejoice over the dedication and time served in this ministry. God bless you two real good!!!

LETTERS

Dear Ron and Team members,

On behalf of MCC San Antonio, I want to thank you for a very uplifting time in the Lord. We are still being blessed by the power of the Holy Spirit. May all the other churches on your tour know the blessings and joy that we are still feeling in MCC San Antonio.

May God continue to bless all of you as you carry the Good News of Christ's love and salvation to all people.

Your brother in
Christ,
Jim Lewey (Pastor)

Dear Ron,

I just got off graveyard shift and I always have a hard time going to sleep at night after I get off, so while I'm up I'm writing you a letter to let you know that I love you and think of you and the team often. When you all were here I enjoyed your two nights of services and I also enjoyed meeting Beth, Barb and Jerry. I'm sorry Steve and Dale left, though. But, I know God will provide you with new members when the time is right.

Ron, that beautiful new bus is just that, "Beautiful!" I knew it would be though because God always provided goodness to the ministry and always will. I've never doubted the Lord providing for the team whether it be financially or otherwise. I know that God will provide for

that front end and for tires and windshield wipers soon. I'll say no more because I believe it is already provided, you just haven't received it yet; you will though.

Well, Ron I'm going to close now and I want you to know that I love you and the ministry as much as I ever did, and miss it terribly. Tell all I said hello, ok? I think of you all often. I miss everything the team stands for (and the people) and I think of it all often. I'll soon be through with this semester and I'll have 30 hours behind me. Thirty more to go for my AA in behavioral sciences. Ron, take care and be sweet, ok? Love to Jerry, Barb and Beth.

Love in Jesus,
Scooter
Houston, Texas

Dear Ron, Beth, Barb, Dale and Steve,

You are with me each day in my thoughts, and I look forward to the time we can all be together again. Your last visit was super enjoyable because it was such a surprise. The friends I have made at MCC during the past nine months have been just about the best I have ever had, and of course, the team tops the list.

I love all of you,
(Republic Missouri)

Schedule of Renewals

C—Confirmed, T—Tentative, B—To be booked

Jan. 15-16	...Springfield (MO) MCC Retreat	C
Jan. 26-30	...MCC Illiano, Quincy, IL	C
Feb. 2-6	...Olahoma City, OK MCC	T
Feb. 9-13	...Lawton, OK MCC	T
Feb. 16-20	...Albuquerque, NM MCC	T
Feb. 23-27	...Tucson, AZ MCC	T
Mar. 2-6	...Phoenix, AZ MCC	T
Mar. 9-13	...San Diego, CA (2 MCC's)	T
Mar. 16-20	...Cathedral City, CA MCC	T
Mar. 23-27	...Long Beach, CA MCC	T
Mar. 30-Apr. 3	...West Hollywood, CA MCC	B
Apr. 6-10	...Pomona, CA MCC	T
Apr. 13-17	...Glendale, CA MCC	B
Apr. 20-24	...Santa Barbara, CA MCC	B
Apr. 27-May 1	...Bakersfield, CA MCC	B
May 4-8	...Modesto, CA MCC	B
May 11-15	...Stockton, CA MCC	B
May 18-22	...Sacramento, CA MCC	B
May 25-29	...Eugene, OR MCC	B
June 1-5	...Vancouver, BC MCC	B
June 8-12	...Calgary, AL MCC	B
	Edmonton, AL MCC	
June 15-19	...Boise ID MCC	T
June 22-26	...Colorado Springs CO MCC	T
June 29-July 3	...Omaha, NE MCC	T

The last half of 1983 is now being booked. The tour will be in the Northeastern part of the United States down to Florida in time for winter. If you are interested in having the team at your church (MCC or non-MCC) please contact your pastor, board. The church should then contact Rev. Reid Christensen at 802½ Maine, Quincy, IL 62301 or phone (217) 224-2800.

1983 Freedom Bus PAYOFF PLEDGE

I pledge \$10.00 per month for ten months to help pay off the mortgage on the Silver Eagle bus. I understand that I can turn in more than one pledge. I also understand that this pledge will be spent for nothing else, but will be added to the needed 135 pledges in order to pay off the \$13,500 needed.

Name

Address

City..... State Zip

Please send me more pledge cards so I may contact others that might want to help. (circle)

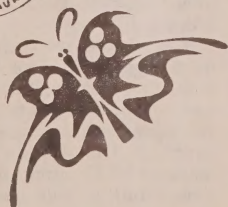
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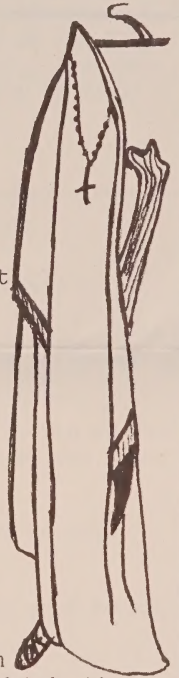
— MCC-FAMILY OF GOD P.O. BOX 576, MORGANTOWN, WV 26505 —

— Vol. IV No. XII January 1983 —

YOUR SHEPHERD SUGGESTS

"Challenge for the New Year"

"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing on one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Parent of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the equipment of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature personhood, to the measure of the stature of fulness of Christ; so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of people, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Christ who is the head, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love." (Ephesians 4:1-16)



We are faced now with another New Year. Although the past effects how we may react to the future, the past is gone, but we have a future filled with the hope of Jesus Christ. The challenge of the New Year comes to us to fulfill God's call in our lives. As a part of the body of Christ we need to explore the gift given to each of us by the Holy Spirit, to be used in building up the body in love. We are one body called to strive for peace through patient love, forbearing one another in love. In our love the challenge comes to speak the truth in love, as we continue to grow and mature in our faith. The goal for each of us in this New Year is LOVE. The love of Christ, who

offers forgiveness for the past. Love for one another that issues in our relationships with other people. Love for God that produces responsible servants. May God's love so permeate our lives in this New Year, that we are known by our love.

In Christ's Love,

Bobbie

The Lord Jesus Christ died for me,
So I might come back home.
I will gather together and prepare,
For the way will be long.

I must know the Path,
I shall bring God's Word.
I must travel mountains and valleys,
I shall bring Prayer.
I will feel victory and defeat,
I shall bring Praise.
I will encounter others along the way,
I shall bring open arms and helping hands.
I will need guidance and refreshment,
I shall draw from the Living Well.
I will face enemies,
I shall bring Love.

The bundle seems small,
But the Power is great.
Hear me, O Lord,
As I gather together and prepare,
I am here.

Barbara

*Without the way, there is no going;
Without the truth, there is no knowing;
Without the life, there is no living.*

"HAPPY" NEW YEAR

Here we are again - January. The excitement of Christmas and the New Years Eve party are over and now we have to settle in to another year of school, and work, and church. Just the same old thing. The weather is starting to get really bad. The days are short. There isn't another holiday for months. We have to get back on our diets. It's enough to depress a person. It's true many people do get depressed in January. But I don't think we have to get depressed. I think we can be as happy and joyful in January as we are in December making preparations for Christmas.

How can we accomplish this? The first thing I think we need to do is to make a real effort to stay close to our God. Reflect on the fact that Christ is born and alive in the world. Pray daily, read the Bible and Christian books, attend church and fellowship with other Christians. The second thing I would like to recommend is my own personal remedy. Get busy and Keep busy. I'm never happier and more satisfied than when my life is full of activities. Especially, activities in which I'm doing God's work and using the gifts that God has given me.

The next question is: What can we do? Well, naturally, I have some suggestions. There are four ministries active in this Church any of which would be happy for some help. We could get involved in the Social Ministry and experience the joy of doing God's work as we plan the fellowship times for our Church and share with one another all the good things that God has given us. We could join the Communications Ministry and help publish "Manna", do the advertising and public relations work of the Church and feel the joy of spreading the message of a Church for all God's people to the community. We can get active in the Spiritual Life Ministry and help plan the retreats and worship experiences of this Church and have the joy of keeping the light of Christ's love alive in our Church. Or we can go out with the Outreach Ministry and

do the essential work of individually bringing the Good News of a personal Savior to others and know the infinite joy of watching Christ being born or reborn in their lives.

Yes, GET BUSY AND KEEP BUSY! Not only as a cure for the post-Christmas blues, but also because these are the types of things we were created to do. God doesn't want sad, lethargic Christians. God wants active energetic, joyful people. People who dance through life, doing all the necessary work that will build up the Body of Christ. People who experience, everyday of their lives, the life and joy of their Savior.

Bev.

REASONS FOR ATTENDING BIBLE STUDY

1. To study the Word of God on a regular basis. Romans 15:4
2. To ensure and sustain the growth of the church, and the ministries of the church. Ephesians 4:1-16
3. To hold the hand of someone in need. I John 4:7-12
4. To take part in some really good debate Ephesians 6:17
5. To work out family disagreements in the presence of Jesus Christ. Eph. 4:15-16
6. Strength for another day. IITimothy 16:17 Acts 20:32
7. To feed our souls and to fill our hearts with God's love. I Peter 2:2

This is only the beginning of what is probably a much longer list. We invite you to send your own reasons for attending Bible Study to "Manna". Please come and join us at Bible Study, Wednesday nights in Morgantown, and Thursday nights in Pittsburgh.

July Roberts

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild nations,
To bring peace among the peoples,
To make music in the heart.

A Prayer

It is my joy in life to find
At every turning of the road
The strong arm of a comrade kind.
To help me onward with my load.

And since I have no gold to give,
And love alone must make amends,
My only prayer is, while I live -
God make me worthy of my friends.

Frank Dempster Sherman

If I Had Known

If I had known what trouble you were bearing;
What griefs were in the silence of your face,
I would have been more gentle, and more caring,
And tried to give you gladness for a space.
I would have brought more warmth into the place,
If I had known.

If I had known what thoughts despairing drew you;
(Why do we never try to understand?)
I would have lent a little friendship to you,
And slipped my hand within your hand,
And made your stay more pleasant in the land,
If I had known.

Mary Carolyn Davies

Notes and Quotes

Who gossips to you, will gossip of you.

God without man is still God.
Man without God is nothing.

The only ideas that will work for you,
are the ones you put to work.

A person wrapped up in themself is a
very small bundle.

Just think how happy you would be if
you lost everything you have right
now - and then got it back again.

Real prayer always does one of two
things;
It either frees us from the trouble
we fear or else it gives us the
strength and courage to meet the
trouble when it comes.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor;

What a joy to receive and read the December issue of Manna. From the Journey to Bethlehem right thru to the Book Review. (BEV, the Screwtape Letters was at the top of my Christmas list!) And the three poems so full of Christmas warmth and energetic purpose were truly inspirational. (Do we have a new poet in our family?)

What an honor for us to serve our church and what a wonderful gift it was to receive December's issue of Manna.

In Christ's Love,

Judy

MESSAGE FROM THE FAMILY

MCC-Family of God is a group of interested people who are deeply concerned with God's message for each of us in our lives. We are concerned with sharing the Good News in all ways to all persons possible. We know that the gay and lesbian community especially need to hear that God can be a part of their lives. We would like to share our family with you.

You can come and see us at service on Sunday evening, 7:15 pm at 429 Warrick Avenue in the A-Frame building across from Westchester Hall. Or you can phone us if you just need to talk - Monday thru Sunday, 6-11 pm, at 292-3128. We also have Bible Study and Fellowship during the week. See our calendar of events for details.

We will be looking forward to sharing with you!

UP AND COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

BIBLE STUDY - Thursday evenings in Pittsburgh. Available in Morgantown on Wednesday evenings. Call for details.

FELLOWSHIP - Tuesday evenings, at Steve's house. This is an open time of getting together.

G.P.U. MEETING - Thursday evening at 710-D Allen Hall on the WVU campus.

BOARD MEETING - January 9, 1983. Sunday, 5:00 pm at the church building. All are Welcome.

SPECIAL SPEAKERS - Sunday, Jan. 16th at 7:15 pm - Bev will be delivering the message. Sunday, Jan. 30th at 7:15, Sandi will be preaching. Come and share our special services.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - Sunday, February 6, 1983.

SUNDAY SERVICE - every Sunday evening, 7:15 pm at 429 Warrick Ave, we celebrate God's life and love for us!

ALL ARE WELCOMED!

MCC-FAMILY OF GOD

P.O. Box 576
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(304) 292-3128

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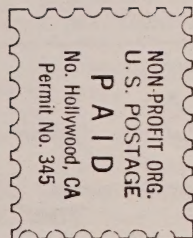
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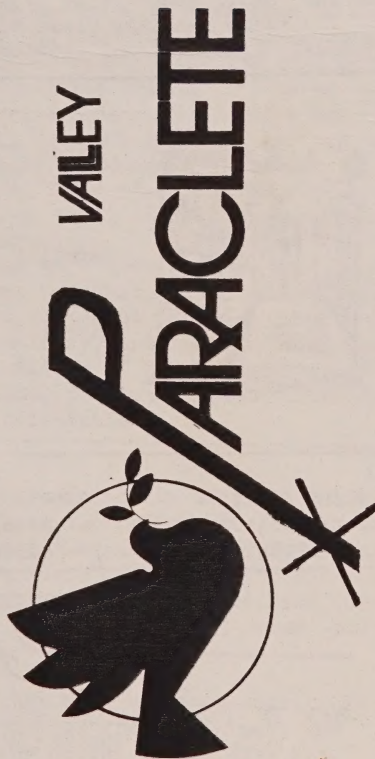
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DATED MATERIAL



MARCH 1983



The PARACLETE is a publication of
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH IN THE VALLEY, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA.
Reverend Kenneth T. Martin, Pastor 91601

Journey!

This attractive Journey logo will become familiar since the name of the UFMCC monthly magazine has been changed from "In Unity" to "Journey". The change of the name seems quite

appropriate and welcome. Yes, there is a certain spirit of Unity in the Fellowship, though it sometimes takes discernment to locate. The word "unity" also seems more appropriate to some established group that has arrived at the Promised Land and has settled down to reflect upon from whence it came. We're not there!

The Fellowship is on a journey of faith. Occasionally the membership and the congregations pause to pray and to decide on the best direction of travel. Some congregations speed ahead and clear a new theological path for others to follow, which sometimes is ignored or altered. Some members or congregations veer to the right or to the left. On occasion some have set their feet in the sand and refused to move another step, either thinking they had already arrived or afraid of treading into uncharted territory. But on the whole, we do move on.

Unity could also lead to a certain smugness of attitude as to who is welcome in the group. Homogenization, a mixing together that destroys individuality, is not a desirable unity either. A journey should be open to anyone or any congregation that will struggle towards our common destination and goals. While on our journey it is not productive to throw stones at those rushing ahead or straggling behind (eg. those who are out front developing liberating theologies, such as from the feminist perspective, or those behind who still use such terminology as "the Man Upstairs" in their monthly newsletter).

Our journey could use American Judaism as role models. There is a general consensus among Jews as to purpose: to survive as a people and a faith and to preserve a Homeland. This unity of purpose however, is accomplished while maintaining three viable divisions (Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox) and while allowing individual rabbis and their synagogues freedom as to their emphasis, their adherence to the traditions, and their interpretations of theology. Of course they disagree, even as to who or what a Jew is! But they are accomplishing a purpose, under oppression they are strong and united, and they are on a journey as surely as when led by Moses.

Congratulations to Journey and its staff under Paula Schoenwether's direction. May this fine publication lead the Fellowship to greater blessings.

BGS

HERE _____ AND _____ THERE

Twelve of our members visited Palm Springs over Washington's Birthday, and attended services at the local MCC. They really enjoyed the worship service under its new pastor, Ron Gee....The New Freedom Evangelistic Team will be at the new San Diego church March 9 thru 13, and in Palm Springs March 16 thru 20....Stuffed bunnies can be purchased on Sunday mornings for \$3.00. These bunnies are given to battered children at Children's Village....The treasurer, Allen, reported that in January we were under budget in receipts by \$2,189 and under budget in expenses by \$544 for a total shortage of \$1,644....T-shirts with the church name and emblem in royal blue will soon be available for \$10.00....Delegates will be holding a parking lot sale and a swap meet; dates will be announced soon....A Monte Carlo Night will be held on Friday, April 15 as a fund-raiser for CSW....A bake sale will be held on Sunday March 6 with proceeds to the Choir Fund to purchase sound equipment....The Memorial Garden will be planted soon in the front of the church with a Pink Triangle as the focal point...In case of rain on Easter the Sunrise Service will be held at the church...The Personal Growth Discussion Group will not meet for two months....The Board voted to write a strong letter to the Fellowship Board of Elders regarding the lengthy delays in receiving minutes of their meetings.

EXPANSION AND REFURBISHING PLANS ANNOUNCED

The Building Committee has been allocated \$6,500 from The Building Fund for sanctuary expansion and refurbishing. The west and east walls will be carpeted and high-grade paneling will be applied to the south wall. The large storage closets will be removed to allow additional seating and windows will be added on that side (north) to allow better ventilation. The work will be done as soon as possible.

The Building Committee will be working on Saturdays (March 5, 12, 19, and 26 from noon to 6 PM. YOUR HELP IS DESPERATELY NEEDED! One of the work projects will be the building and planting of the Memorial Garden as well as commencement of work on the sanctuary expansion. The church is growing--we need more seats!

CHOIR'S BAKE SALE--SUNDAY MARCH 6 Donations of Goodies welcome!

MARCH

SUNDAY Worship services at 9 & 11 AM (11 AM service is signed for non-hearing) Lenten Sermon Series on the Beatitudes
Mar. 6 "On Being Meek and Righteous" Matt. 5:5-6
Mar. 13 "Compassion and Singleness of Purpose" Matt. 5:3
Mar. 20 "Peacemakers and the Persecuted" Matt. 5:9-10
Mar. 27 Palm Sunday
Apr. 3 Easter "Celebration of the Resurrection" (11 AM only)

MONDAY AT (Alcoholics Together) Men's Stag at 8:30 PM

TUESDAY Bible Study through March 22, "The Holy Spirit and you" led by Student Clergy Ruby Grammer

WED'DAY Choir Practice at 7:30 PM (Leroy Dysart, Music Director)
Sign Language Class at 7:30 PM

THURSDAY (The personal growth discussion group will not meet.)

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



March 27 Palm Sunday Services at 9 & 11 AM
March 31 Maundy Thursday--"Passover Seder Dinner"
7:30 PM \$5 Dinner Donation (no one is turned away for lack of funds)
April 1 Good Friday: 12 - 3:00 PM
"Behold the Lamb of God"
7:30 PM "Tennebrae Communion Service"
April 3 Sunrise Service-Griffith Park Observatory at 7:00 AM Bring blankets or folding chair
11:00 AM (only) Worship service
1:00 PM Picnic at North Hollywood Park (Bring a dish)

MONTHLY MEETINGS

March 7 Staff March 14 Board of Directors
March 19 Building (Noon) March 28 DUO and Christian Social Action

SPECIAL EVENTS DURING MARCH

Friday March 11

St. Patrick's Day Dance

8:30 PM Door Donation \$2.00 Prizes for Costumes!

JOIN IN THE "GREAT LEPRECHAUN HUNT" GREEN THEME (of course)

Sunday March 20

DELEGATE'S BRUNCH following the 11 AM service
These fine brunch's served up by your delegation help fund their travels to conferences and quarterly meetings.

selves until we feel safe. Our problems of discrimination are often not named as instances of lesbian oppression, but are included in general women's concerns. And we share the concerns of all women. Issues of child care, of equal pay and equal work are our concerns. They are intensified because we do not depend on men for status or support, nor do we anticipate doing so. In addition, there are specifically lesbian concerns, such as health care for significant others in our lives, protection from harassment and intimidation on the job due to our choice of sexual partners and community, fair treatment in public housing for households made up of women only. A more subtle expression of our unequal treatment comes from a fear of strong and independent women, as we are stigmatized for not showing proper deference in the ways that society teaches women to respond to men.

We would like you to educate yourselves about us and to be open to having your consciousness raised. As you become more sensitive to our existence and our problems, you will see the examples you sought in the beginning. As you show yourselves worthy of trust, lesbians will bring their cases to you. As your system demonstrates the ability to encounter differences between people without a necessity to judge one better than the other, our diversity will become a resource for you to tap. You must make the first move, however, because we have been ignored for a long time and been burned by the system. It will take significant changes in the system for us to begin to feel included and protected in fact, as well as by your words.

(A number of specific recommendations were then made to the Commission in the areas of discrimination, recognition, police relations, and funding of VD clinics. The following statement closed the testimony.)

We want to thank you for inviting us today, and again express the desire of the Christian Social Action Committee of MCC/Valley to work with you toward the elimination of tensions, problems, and discrimination in Los Angeles County based upon sexual orientation.

CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

CSA is now organizing itself and is discussing its order of priorities. Its structural organization is being defined during February, under the February chair, Barry Wiener. The CSA does plan on contact with a large meeting of clergy in Los Angeles in March discussing the Nuclear Freeze Lobby. CSA concerns will be a regular feature of the blue section of your Paraclete.

FAT ROBERTSON of the 700 CLUB

stated on his show on January 26 that "...the rise of homosexuality in America is directly attributed to children from divorced homes, who failed to gain the proper identity with the parent of the same sex." (Figures quoted were obviously not gained from those we know!)

Here's the church,
Here's the steeple.
Open the doors, see
some gay people.

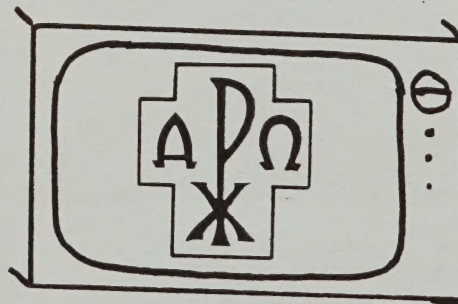
Are gays gaining sacred ground
within traditional religions? Or
is it still "never on Sunday"?

Chuck Henry reports
on this growing war
of worship.

Possibly this caption from an advertisement in TV Guide for the last week of February caught your eye. If you watched the news series on Channel 7 you would have seen MCC/Valley highlighted. An "extra" worship service was scheduled on February 13 after the regular services. Film crews from KABC were permitted to film portions of that service. As the Paraclete is being printed it is still too early for the critics to have their reviews in. Hope many saw this report on the religious activity of some of God's children.

NCC BLASTS "60 MINUTES"

Representatives from the National Council of Churches has asked CBS for time to reply to a segment of "60 Minutes" which accused the Council of aiding revolutionary causes in some areas of the world. The NCC pointed out for example, that one delegate at a United Methodist conference in the midwest was allowed to decry activities of the Council, but the film editors did not include any of the many who spoke against the move by the one delegate to remove Methodists from NCC. In essence the Council replied that followers of Christ were not charged to ask someone's political views before offering them sustenance.



UPDATE ON UFMCC TELEVISION SPECIAL

At the present time Rev. Troy Perry is conducting one night fund raisers across the country, for the TV special, "God, Gays, and the Gospel: This is Our Story".

\$28,000 is still owed on the contract for the show's production. All filming is completed and work was under way in January to edit the more than 20 hours of film into one hour.

Editing will probably be completed by the end of March. The Paraclete will keep readers informed on the progress of the program and on efforts to then buy local air time.

Money does talk when it comes to buying time on television. The quite conservative religious program, the 700 Club, recently held its annual telethon for funds. A total of \$3,191,000 per month was raised for next years programming, from 72,191 contributors: (We need \$28,000)

CONCERNS PRESENTED TO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

On January 26, 1983 representatives from MCC/Valley including Richard Follett and others, presented testimony before the Commission on Human Relations, Los Angeles County. The following is a condensed version of the testimony given. An introduction was first given that included an explanation of the outreach of MCC/Valley.

"The major items that emerged in our preliminary work were the rights of gay and lesbian teachers in our public schools at all levels, police harassment in public parks and restrooms and at such places as the Officer's Club (gay bars throughout the county), the cutbacks in funding for the VD clinics..., and the refusal of personnel in the L.A. County Hospitals to recognize and treat male rapes. Further, general employment rights of all our members is a major issue: as a largely middle to upper-middle class congregation, we have members who simply feel that they cannot become known on their jobs as members of our church, let alone as gay males or lesbians. We have members in highly responsible corporate, educational, media, medical, legal and other professional fields; many of these live in daily fear of losing their livelihood if their sexual orientation is discovered. Naturally, L.A. County suffers from their decreased freedom, from their energies which must go, by necessity as they see it, to covering their true identities.

"Let me give you an example of just one of our members. Mr. X, we'll call him, had taught in the ... Public Schools for fifteen exemplary years, highly regarded by colleagues, administrators, and students alike. Those fifteen years crashed to an end through a single incident when he went to a public park and witnessed two men groping each other. He began to leave the public restroom but was stopped by them, thrown to the floor, and arrested for lewd conduct. He fought to get away and received verbal abuse from the undercover officers. He was additionally charged with resisting arrest and disturbing the peace. He was taken to jail and released after signing a series of papers. The ... Board of Education was notified and he was removed from the classroom and placed on a leave of absence with the statement that he could return to the classroom if he could clear his name. Meeting in closed chambers, he pleaded nolo contendere to disturbing the peace only. However, behind closed doors, the ... Board of Education refused to restore him to his classroom; instead, they paid off his back pay and gave one month severance and insurance. He did not pursue the case due to publicity fears. The total cost to the State of California was \$18,401; there was no conviction.

"Importantly, the psychological damage caused this member of our congregation, our friend, to leave a profession for which he is highly qualified, to create a false history to avoid embarrassment, to lose his self-esteem and self confidence, to shut himself off from the com-

munity for over a year...(with serious attendant problems). He is now recovering, but he must carry those psychological scars the rest of his life as the result of a single moment in a Valley park--a moment that had nothing to do with his effectiveness in the classroom and a moment wherein the accusation of misbehavior (not the reality) became all important to the rest of his life.

In a society that systematically destroys and renders completely taboo any discussion of or education about sexual differences (witness the inability of publishers of school textbooks even to deal with the subject of gay and lesbian lifestyles openly--especially in history and literature classes wherein students find role models of heterosexuality)--in such a society gay males are fortunate to emerge as productive, responsible, and self-reliant citizens.

"We at MCC/Valley can work with your commission to help gay males and lesbians maintain our mental wellness....We trust this Commission ...will deal openly and honestly with all issues of human rights, will not surrender to so-called Christians who are really only interested in right-wing causes and who use misinterpretations of a few scattered Biblical texts to oppress fully loved children of God, and that this Commission will continue dialogue with gay and lesbian citizens throughout Los Angeles County."

Testimony on Lesbian Concerns

"I am a lesbian...I haven't brought specific examples of oppression of lesbians to tell you about. I would like to explain why and warn you about some pitfalls in your methods of investigation. Lesbians are afraid to tell you of instances of harassment, of situations of oppression. We see the power dynamics between men and women, we see the "old boys network", and we don't see strong support for justice and fairness for us. So, if lesbians make complaints of inequality and discrimination, it will be in confidence and to our sisters, not to you. We fear recriminations. We don't see that we have anything to gain by offering ourselves as martyrs. Our experience has been that men stick together and disvalue what women say, and that fairness only applies within the rigid boundaries of patriarchy, accessible to men first and women only after men have been served by it.

"Therefore, if you structure your commission's functioning to deal with specific examples of oppression as individual cases, you will not deal with the oppression of lesbians. You can use that, if you so choose, to justify a position that there is no apparent oppression of or discrimination against lesbians, and it will be a logical conclusion from the methodology you have followed. It will not be the truth.

"You probably would not recognize me as a lesbian unless I told you. This is one of the problems of dealing with lesbian concerns: the population is difficult to identify. We are not likely to reveal our-



of
the
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Society
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INCC-QUAD CITIES CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE QUAD CITIES TRINITY

- Nov 28th - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 Nov 29th - Monday Choir Practice - 7:00 PM
 Dec 1st - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 Dec 3rd - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8:00 PM
 Dec 4th - Saturday Cleanup Brigade - 1:00 PM
 Rap Session; Inclusive Language - 7:30 PM
 Dec 5th - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 Dec 6th - Monday Choir Practice - 7:00 PM
 Dec 8th - Staff Meeting - 6:00 PM
 Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 Dec 10th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8:00 PM
 Dec 11th - Saturday Rap Session: Gay Pride - 7:30 PM
 Dec 12th - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 Dec 13th - Monday Choir Practice - 7:00 PM
 Dec 15th - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 Dec 17th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8:00 PM
 Dec 18th - Christmas Party - Potluck & Decorating the
 Tree with Edible Ornaments - 7:30 PM
 (Advisory Board Meeting - 6:00 PM)
 Dec 19th - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 Dec 20th - Monday Choir Practice - 7:00 PM
 Dec 22nd - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 Dec 24th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8:00 PM
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
 - 11:00 PM
 Dec 26th - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 Dec 27th - Monday Choir Practice - 7:00 PM
 Dec 29th - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 Dec 31st - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8:00 PM
 New Year's Eve Communion Service - 11:00 PM
 Jan 2nd - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 (Congregational Meeting following Service)
 Jan 3rd - Monday Choir Practice - 7:00 PM
 Jan 5th - Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 Jan 7th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8:00 PM
 Jan 8th - Cleanup Brigade - 1:00 PM
 Jan 9th - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM
 Jan 10th - Monday Choir Practice - 7:00 PM
 Jan 12th - Staff Meeting - 6:00 PM
 Wednesday Bible Study - 7:30 PM
 Jan 14th - Friday Gay A.A. Meeting - 8:00 PM
 Jan 15th - Saturday Popcorn Ministry at Ted & Monte's
 - 7:30 PM (Advisory Board Meeting at 6:00)
 Jan 16th - Sunday Worship Service - 11:50 AM



The Newsletter of
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE QUAD CITIES
 1618 West Third Street Davenport, Iowa
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4095, Davenport, Iowa 52808

THE QUAD CITIES TRINITY is the Newsletter of Metropolitan Community Church of the Quad Cities, a Study Group affiliated with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE QUAD CITIES
1618 West Third Street
Davenport, Iowa
Telephone: 319-322-5055
Parsonage: 319-322-5513

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 4095, Davenport, Iowa 52808
Worship Coordinator: The Rev. Robert Carl Darst

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES 11:50 AM
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:30 PM

Monthly social activities & Rap Sessions - call for time and location.

Opinions expressed in the Quad Cities Trinity are not necessarily those of MCC-Quad Cities, its Pastor, Advisory Board of Directors, Staff or Members. Publication of the name of any person, organization or business in articles or advertising is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of said person, organization or business.

Contributions and articles for the Quad Cities Trinity as well as Advertising are always welcome! The deadline for Issue Number 9 is January 9th, and the publication date for that Issue will be January 16th.

ADVERTISING RATES:

Two-Page Center Spread.....	\$ 15.00
Full Back Page.....	\$ 10.00
Full Inside Page.....	\$ 8.00
Half Inside Page.....	\$ 5.00
Quarter Inside Page.....	\$ 3.00

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: "Many Christians have the right aims in life. They just never get around to pulling the trigger."
Clyde Webb

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METROPOLITAN WORD SEARCH

While there are several hundred words which can be formed by using the letters in the word METROPOLITAN, this list is restricted to words which are found in Scripture (KJV). See if you can locate them in the opposite puzzle, horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

ALIEN	MIRE	PLATE
ALOE	MITE	PLATTER
ALONE	MOLE	PLEA
ALTER	MOLTEN	POET
AFRON	MOCN	POINT
ATTIRE	MORE	POLE
ELOI	MORTAL	PORTION
IMFART	MOTION	POTTER
IMPOTENT	NAIL	PRINT
INTC	NAME	PROMOTE
INTREAT	NAOMI	RAIMENT
IRON	NEAR	RATE
LAMENT	NITRE	RATTLE
LAMP	NOTE	REALM
LATIN	OMAR	REAP
LEAP	OPEN	REIN
LEARN	OPERATION	REMAIN
LIAR	ORATION	REMIT
LIME	ORION	RETAIN
LINE	PAIN	RIOT
LION	PAIR	RIPE
LITTER	FALE	RITE
LOAN	PALM	ROMAN
LOIN	PARENT	ROME
LOOP	PATE	ROOM
MAIL	PATIENT	ROPE
MALE	PATTERN	ROTTEN
MANTLE	PEARL	TAIL
MATE	PERIL	TALENT
MATTER	PERMIT	TAME
MEAL	PERTAIN	TEAR
MEANT	PILATE	TEAT
MEAT	PILE	TEMPORAL
MELON	PILOT	TEMPT
MELT	PINE	TENOR
MILE	PLAIN	TITLE
MINE	PLANET	TOIL
MINT	PLANT	TORMENT

Next Issue's
WORD SEARCH will
be a listing of
all the animals,
birds, reptiles
and insects list-
ed in Scriptures
(KJV).

The WORD SEARCH
in upcoming is-
sues will include
all the Scripture
words containing
letters in the
name FRED A SMITH;
all the trees
and shrubs men-
tioned in the
Bible; all the
Scripture words
containing the
letters in the
name TROY D. PER-
RY; and all the
colors mentioned
in the Bible.

JESUS SCARES ME

by Bob Farwell, Quad Cities

Jesus scares me half to death. God, with the power to drop me in my tracks with a lightning bolt, doesn't bother me in the least. I know that at my worst, I am hardly likely to attract God's wrath. I know that even at my worst, Jesus loves me. That's the scary part.

All I have to do is sincerely ask and Jesus will use His powerful influence in my life. He will give me the opportunity to be happy, successful, and useful to my brothers and sisters. I am not afraid to open presents from my family. Why should I be so afraid of accepting His gift?

It must be because I am so thoroughly accustomed to my misery. Perhaps misery is too strong a word. All I am is lonely, broke, frustrated, and angry. The correct word is misery. Jesus' love is the answer.

Lonely? Jesus has already provided the solution. His Churches stand waiting, full of friends eager to share with me. I also need a lover for life. I am positive that person is waiting for me and that Jesus will bring us together; if I will only ask.

Broke? Jesus has given me many opportunities to earn my way. He will come through for me again. All I have to do is ask. He will provide the job. It is up to me to do the work well.

Frustrated? I am frustrated because God has given me talents and the world has not recognized them. Jesus will give me the courage to develop those talents and present myself to the world. By asking for His help and by working hard, talents will blossom into abilities.

Angry? I am angry because I am not happy, successful, and useful when I see so many who are. I am angry at myself for not taking what Jesus so freely gives. I can rid myself of this pervasive anger, which is so destructive, by simply asking that Jesus take it away.

Jesus loves me. He wants me to be happy, successful, and useful because those are the intended circumstances of life. Only I can make myself unhappy,

a failure, and useless. I am not as afraid of Jesus as I was. His love does not scare me too much.

Jesus, please come into my life and make me whole. Please take away my anger. Please help me to develop my God-given talents. Please show me a way to earn my way in the world. Please direct me to good friends and a lover. Thank You, Jesus, for all You have done and all that You will do.

*"Fear not: for, behold,
I bring you good tid-
ings of great joy."*

Come, worship with us at
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF
THE QUAD CITIES

Sundays - 11:50 AM
1618 West Third, Davenport
319-322-5055 319-322-5513

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 4095
Davenport, IA
52808

GOOD GAY GIRL

MOM'S BEST SPANISH RICE

8 slices	Bacon
1 cup	Onion, chopped finely
1/4 cup	Green Pepper, chopped
1 1-pound can	Tomatoes
1 & 1/2 cups	Water
3/4 cup	Long Grain Rice, uncooked
1/2 cup	Chili Sauce
1 teaspoon	Salt
1 teaspoon	Brown Sugar
1/2 teaspoon	Worcestershire Sauce
Dash	Freshly Ground Pepper

In a 10 or 12 inch skillet, cook bacon till crisp; remove and drain. Pour off half of the fat. In the remaining fat, saute onion and green pepper till tender but not brown. Add the other ingredients and stir till mixed. Cover and simmer 35 to 40 minutes. Crumble bacon on top and serve hot. Serves 6.

ROY'S MUSHROOM CHICKEN

1/2 cup	Butter or Margarine
3	Chicken Breasts, Halved, Boned
2 cloves	Garlic
1 teaspoon	Marjoram (Dried Flakes)
1 teaspoon	Paprika
1/2 teaspoon	Dry Mustard
1 cup	Fresh Mushrooms

Melt butter in a large skillet, saute garlic till brown. Remove garlic and add the three spices to the butter. Add chicken and mushrooms. Cover and simmer over medium-low heat for 25 minutes, turning occasionally. Add more butter if needed to keep chicken moist. Serve on beds of steamed rice. Serves 6.

Could you have tried a little harder, complained a little less? Smiled a bit more often, and prayed the world be blessed?
Did you hear your brother calling, or your sister's heart-felt plea? Could you have tried a little harder, and maybe set them free?

Anonymous

THE SHEPHERD CROSS at the upper left is a comforting symbol for Christ. It replaces the Rho ("P") of the Chi Rho with a shepherd's staff, visually recalling the fact that He was called the Good Shepherd (John 10:14).

THE FIMBRIATED CROSS at the top on the right is the name for any style of cross which has an outlined border, usually one of white surrounding a darker cross, symbolizing that light awaits beyond the darkness of suffering, that heaven awaits beyond this world.

THE CROSS MASCLY, center, left, dates back to the 13th Century when diamond-shaped "mascles" (steel plates) were linked together to make suits of armor. It recalls Paul's words: "Put on the full armor of God".

THE STAR OF DAVID CROSS at center on the right combines the emblem of the Christian church with the ancient emblem of Judaism signifying the wearer is a "completed" or "fulfilled" Jew, one who has accepted Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah. It is also sometimes worn by couples of an interfaith relationship.

THE PALL at the lower left, with its arms upraised, symbolizes prayers rising toward heaven, and is most commonly seen on vestments and woven into other Church paraments and stoles to remind us that we bear the yoke of Jesus Christ.

THE NEO-CELTIC CROSS is a very popular design among Irish protestants, often seen in masonry and stained glass windows. It is made without the encircling arms of the traditional Celtic cross used by most Irish Catholics.

SOMETHING MISSING

by David Shockley, MCC-Quad Cities

There are many of us who feel that we are not fit for the "normal" things in life. We feel we must be second class citizens and, therefore, must act accordingly.

We center our lives around the bar scene so that we may be on display--we want the whole gay community to be aware that we are making it just fine. We go to all the proper social functions with the right people and tell every person who inquires that we are happy.

For many of us, the bar scene is not enough -- we may not admit it, but there is definately something missing! "Normal" people have more! What is it that "they" have that we don't have?

I, also, was once lost in the scene of trying to please everybody in the world and ignoring the gnawing that was going on in my heart. It is not unnatural to want everything life has to offer - it is only unnatural not to strive to attain it.

I had a lovely home, a nice car, money in my pocket, a caring and wonderful person to share my life, but something was still missing. Each day there was a void that kept making a louder noise from within until it was a roaring in my head. What was missing?

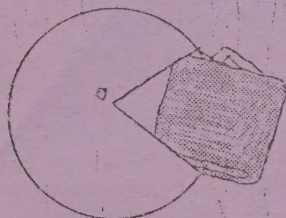
We searched the bars, we tried the right social outings, we even tried new sex games with total strangers, but, still the noise grew louder.

It is "normal" to want someone to care, it is "normal" to go to bars where you are accepted, it is "normal" to mingle with people who don't expect more than you are able to give, so, what was missing?

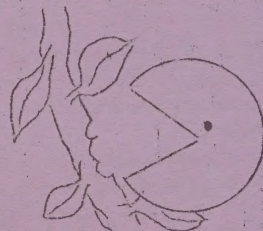
I found out. It is even more normal to want God in our lives. To want to be a part of the family of sharing, caring, loving people that make up the Church which is the Body of Christ. I am not well versed in the Bible and may never be, but the God I have I thank God for and for the Church with members I can love and share my life experiences -- people caring about peo-

ple is the greatest way of showing God's love, and MCC does that like no other church that I've found -- unconditionally!

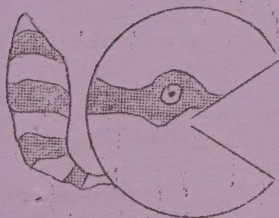
John 3:16 is all I need to know for the reassurance that God loves me, too. As unworthy as I may always be, I am a whole child of God's just as I am. It is a wonderful life, even those rocky times, when there are no longer those voids!



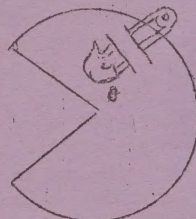
A PAC-POCKET



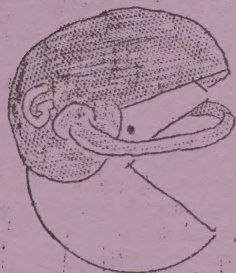
PAC AND THE BEANSTALK



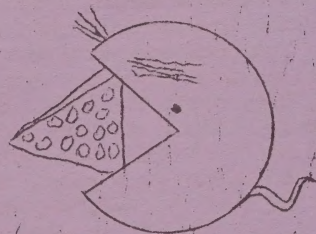
PACCOON



PUNK PAC

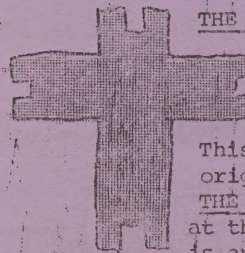


A GREEN BAY PAC-ER



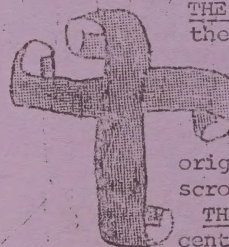
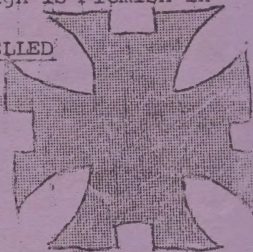
A PAC RAT

And that should hold you until you get Pac in the Saddle again, or until you get a Big Pac at the Golden Arches.



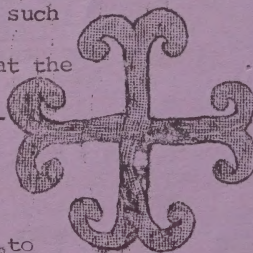
THE CROSS CRÉNELE on the upper left, with its stark suggestion of mediaeval castle fortifications of crenellated walls, is an obvious symbol of the militant church. This particular design is Flemish in origin.

THE CROSS SEMI-SARCELLED at the upper right is another mediaeval variation of the Cross Crenelée. This particular Frankish design has arched arms which, if extended in their arching, would form a closed but flattened sphere.



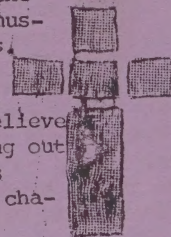
THE CROSS COTISED at the center on the left bears the name given to any cross whose arm-ends are fashioned to resemble the rolling ends of a scroll. It represents the four Gospels which were originally written on such scrolls.

THE CROSS CERCELEE at the center on the right was very popular in Baroque architectural designs. Its stylized arm ends recall the shape of an anchor (See THE ANCHOR CROSS on Page 13 of this issue).

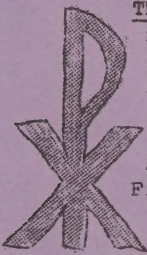


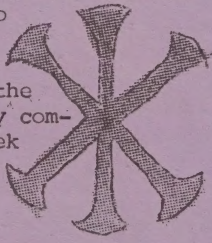
THE PATERNOSTER CROSS, to the lower left, literally means "The Our Father Cross", and it is sometimes known as the Rosary Cross. It is formed by either welding, beading or carving a cross out of small beads of glass, metal, wood or chains interlinked together. One of the more costly ones seen in many museums are those made from pearls.

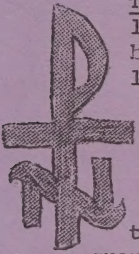
THE CROSS TRONCONNÉE at the lower right has five unconnected parts. While its symbology is unknown, some believe it represents the four Gospels spreading out in the four directions. This style was widely used in Spanish and Portuguese chapels during the late Middle Ages.

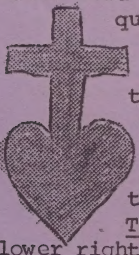


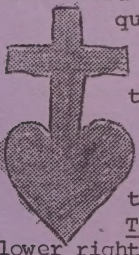
into the sea and drowned in the year 100 A.D.

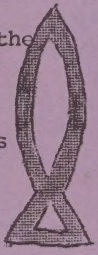
 THE CHI RHO, shown on the upper left, is a monogram of the first two letters (CHI [X] and RHO [P]) of the Greek word for Christ. It is frequently seen flanked by the first letter of the Greek alphabet (ALPHA) and the last letter (OMEGA) to symbolize the Christ is First and Last.

 THE CRISTOS MONOGRAM on the upper right, is formed by combining the initial letters of the Greek spelling of Jesus ("I") Christ ("X"). It has always been a very popular symbol in Roman Catholicism and among Eastern Orthodox Churches.

 THE CRISTOS NOSTER, shown in the center left, literally means "OUR CHRIST", and is formed by superimposing the Chi Rho over the Greek letter NU ("N"). It symbolizes the fellowship all believers possess through Christ Jesus.

 THE NIKA CROSS, shown in the center on the right, is also known as the Cross of the Conqueror or the Cross of Victory. It has the abbreviated words for Jesus Christ in Greek and the Greek word "NIKA" which means "conquers" above and below the arms of a Greek cross.

 THE SACRE COUER (Sacred Heart) CROSS at the lower left was originally an ancient Egyptian symbol which later became the symbol of the adoration of both the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Sacred Heart of Mary, the mother of Christ.

 THE ICHTHUS or "Fish", is shown at the lower right. "Ichthus" is the Greek word for fish, and the initials, in Greek, spelled out "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior", and was the most popular symbol used by the Christians during the early days of the persecution as a means of identification. They would often identify themselves as Christians by drawing the emblem in the sand.

Christmas Child.....

An Advent Message from Pastor Darst

Thanksgiving is over in that most of the turkey has been eaten, and the drug stores have done a thriving business in bicarbonate of soda. Now, all of a sudden, we find ourselves in a new Church season - the Season of Advent, and all the altar cloths and vestments have changed to purple, the color which symbolizes the royal birth of Jesus. On November 28th, the first candle of the Advent Wreath has been lit, and each week an additional candle will be lit until on Christmas Day the center candle will be lit to show that the light of the world will shine in our sanctuary as well as in our hearts.

All of this means that Christmas is coming! CHRISTMAS IS COMING! Christmas trees and Christmas cards! Plum pudding and egg nog! The beauty of the music, "Silent Night, Holy Night" and "O, Come, All Ye Faithful" as well as the delightful songs like "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Frosty the Snowman".

Do you remember the excitement and the anticipation of the past when you were a child? Do you remember the eagerness that bubbled and danced inside of you when your parents or guardians took you to the department store to see Santa Claus? Do you remember the electric magic of the toy departments with their displays of dolls and trains and building blocks and two-wheeled bicycles? Do you remember the paper dolls and the cowboy suits and the stuffed teddy bears and the miniature cars and trucks? And did you, too, want one of everything?

Do you remember the beauty of Christmas trees when you were a child? Do you remember the scents of cedar and pine and of sandalwood candles? All the colored lights and tinsel and bright, shining ornaments? Do you remember the flavor of peppermint candy canes and ribbon candy and tangerines? Do you remember the mystery of all the elegantly wrapped presents?

Do you remember the laughter and the joyousness of Christmas then? Remember the smiles of anticipation on the faces of your parents waiting for you to find out what Santa had brought you? Do you remember giggling into your hand over the silly antics of the grown-ups in your family whenever they'd meet under

the mistletoe - all that kissing and mushy stuff?

And Christmas Eve - how hard it was to fall asleep? Would Santa really bring you that sled you wanted so much, or that new baseball glove, or that miniature stove which came complete with its own little pots and pans? Did you, too, lay in bed trying to stay awake so you could hear the clatter of reindeer hoofs? But you'd fall asleep no matter how desperately you wondered if Santa Claus would really eat the cake and cookies and drink the glass of milk you left out for him?

Do you remember the joy of waking up early on Christmas morning itself, once even as early as three o'clock in the morning? All the presents and the gifts and even, though not as exciting, the new clothes and books - but Santa was kind of like God in a way, giving us some things we needed as well as the things we wanted. Do you remember the excitement of scampering around, waking up the whole household to come now and see all the Christmas presents?

Where is that excitement and anticipation today? Where is the eagerness and the magic and the beauty we knew as a child? Where is the laughter and the joy? Only a few of us still have it because we're fortunate enough to have children of our own that keep that excitement and magic and joy alive for us. For most of us, however, Christmas seems to have lost all that tinsel and the glittering lights. It has become just another day, perhaps lonelier than the others. We've grown up and left the world of childhood. Although we still have those precious memories which make the loneliness seem all the more acute, Christmas simply isn't the same when the children are grown.

But pause with me for a moment. Reflect with me for a moment. What does Christmas mean to you besides all those memories of childhood? What is Christmas beyond all those things that meant excitement and laughter and magic?

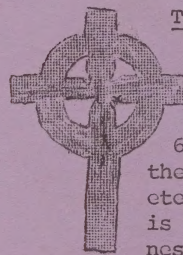
Isn't Christmas, first and foremost, the celebration of the coming of Christ, the birth of a child in Bethlehem which was called Jesus. A little child like we once were - a child that also faced the world with excitement and anticipation, with joy and beauty! Sometimes we get so wrapped up in the celebration of giving and receiving gifts that we forget this child that was the greatest gift this world has ever received. A gift of life. A gift of joy. A gift of anticipation.

it not time for us to turn and give the remnant of that child now within our being - give it to, with and in glory to God! The gift that was God's child was given to us. Let us in joy and in excitement now give the child within us to God.

Merry Christmas, God! Merry Christmas!

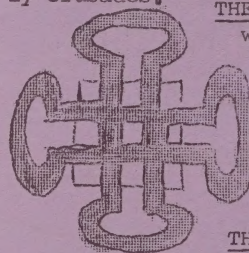
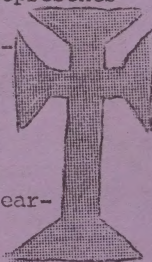
CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

CONTINUED FROM THE LAST TWO ISSUES



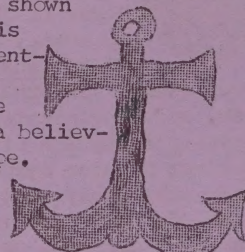
THE CELTIC CROSS, also known as the Ionian Cross, dates back to the early centuries of the Christian era among believers in Ireland, where the church was begun by missionaries during the 6th Century. One of the explanations for the central circle is that it represents eternity. Another explanation is that it represents the wholeness we possess through Christ.

THE PORTUGUESE CROSS, adopted as the National Cross of Portugal, has wider, flattened ends which symbolize the solid foundation of Christ as the bedrock of the Church. It dates back to the time of the early Crusades.



THE CANTERBURY CROSS, which is a highly stylized one used popularly among the Anglican congregations during the period of Queen Elizabeth I and William Shakespeare, and used today by many Episcopal groups. Its meaning and symbolism are not certain.

THE ANCHOR CROSS, shown on the lower right, is one of the earliest and most frequently used symbols during the time of the persecution of Christians. The anchor is a symbol of the hope of a believer. Hebrews 6:19 speaks of that hope. Frequently found in the catacombs in Rome, it is also the symbol for Clement, one of the first Bishops, who was martyred by being tied to an anchor and cast



likeness, not in childishness. There is a difference between child-likeness and childishness, and the Scriptures help us to distinguish that difference.

First of all, the Bible warns us of what childish behaviour is, explaining it quite clearly. Proverbs 22:15 reads: "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child." Jeremiah 4:22 reads: "My people are foolish, they have not known me; they are stubborn, frolicsome children, and they have no understanding." And Paul wrote in I Corinthians 13:11: "When I became an adult, I put away childish things."

Childishness - immaturity, selfishness, foolishness, stubbornness - these are all the things we should avoid in our search for childlikeness. And there are scriptures that speak to the awe and wonder of childlikeness which should be the qualities we strive to capture.

Psalms 131:2 speaks of the growth from infant behavior to the child-like quality of being eager for more teaching, and David wrote: "Surely I have behaved and quitted myself, as a child that is weaned from its mother: My soul is even as a weaned child." In Mark 10:15, Christ spoke and said: "Verily, I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the dominion of God as a little child, shall not enter therein." Paul wrote in I Corinthians 14:20: "Brothers and sisters, be not children in understanding; howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be ye adult." And the oldest of the Apostles, Peter, wrote in I Peter 2:2: "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow."

Such childlikeness is an essential element in our Christian life. The child that was sent to us so many centuries ago still lives. Don't let that child of Christmas which is a part of you go unfulfilled. Let that child of Christmas that is within you live with all the excitement and anticipation of this season that you knew when you were a child.

Recapture that same energy you so excitingly used to waken the household to see the presents beneath the tree and use it to waken the household anew to the gift of Christ - to sing and laugh and rejoice in the Christ of Christmas. Waken everyone you know with the joyous cry, "It's Christmas, and there IS a child in the house."

God has given to us that child which was beforehand within the divine being and breast of the Godhood. Is

A gift of life -- a child! I don't believe it is only women who can rejoice with Mary over what she must have felt in giving birth to Jesus, but only our sisters can say that a gift of a child is worth all the heaviness and the backaches and the pains of labor. A gift of life that is precious and innocent and trusting.

A gift of joy -- a child! Tiny fingers that clasp around your thumb so tightly, perfect even down to their miniature fingernails. An infant gurgling with the laughter of discovery of warmth and movement and all the wondrous things of this world like puppy dogs and rainbows and snowflakes. A gift of joy because of its very preciousness and innocence and trust.

A gift of anticipation -- a child! What adventures of life that are in store for children! What heights

MCC'S DEACONS PANTRY

In order to help provide food for members of our community who are in need, and thus fulfill the instructions of Christ to feed the sheep, MCC-Quad Cities is asking members and friends to help us stock a Deacons Pantry by bringing one or more of the following items to Church each week:

Nov 28.....Canned Pears or Canned Tuna or Salmon
Dec 5.....Canned Spaghettios or Canned Peas
Dec 12.....Canned Corn or Canned Tomato Soup
Dec 19.....Canned Chili or Two Jars of Baby Food
Dec 26.....Jar of Peanut Butter or Canned Veg. Soup
Jan 2.....Canned Chicken or Canned Apple Sauce
Jan 9.....Jar of Spaghetti Sauce or A Toothbrush
Jan 16.....Canned Chop Suey/Chow Mein or Canned Beans
Jan 23.....Canned Spam or Two Boxes of Jello
Jan 30.....Canned Ravioli or Canned Potatoes
Feb 6.....Canned Beef Stew or Canned Peaches
Feb 13.....Canned Enchiladas or Canned Tomatoes

Of course, any donations of non-perishable food items are always welcome appreciated, as are any donations of cash to purchase perishable dairy products, bread and meat. May God bless you real, real good!

of fame and fortune to be reached! The years ahead of learning and discovery and contributions to art and to science and to religious faith. The slow beginning, learning to walk, learning to talk -- the school years, learning to ride bikes and pull ponytails and adding and subtracting numbers -- the later school years, conjugating verbs in Latin and Spanish, reciting the date of the Norman Conquest or the French Revolution, memorizing the words of Shakespeare and Whitman and Gertrude Stein. The years of learning about life and love and disappointment and death. Oh, the anticipation we feel looking at a child and the years that are ahead for it!

And we can understand the excitement of this child's birth. We can understand the anticipation and beauty of Christmas when we focus on a child in a manger - it lets us be children again. Unfortunately at times our first reaction to this miracle of Christ is much like our first, childish reaction to all the glitter of Christmas trees and presents. We say, "Oh, thank you, God" in much the same manner in which we once cried, "Oh, thank you, Santa Claus!"

Sometimes the years pass by after our first awareness of the babe in the manger, our first experience with God's gift called Christ, and we leave our child-like excitement behind us. We grow up, and somehow all the joy and the anticipation and the beauty of Christ is not the same, just as our Christmases aren't the same they were when we were young.

Earlier I said "Christmas seems to have lost all that tinsel and the glittering lights. It has become just another day, perhaps lonelier than the others now. We've grown up and left the world of childhood. Although we still have these precious memories which make the loneliness all the more acute, Christmas simply isn't the same when the children are grown." That statement can sometimes be just as true for us in our attitude toward Christ as it is towards Christmas.

But pause with me one more moment. Reflect with me one more moment. Isn't there still more to the story of Christmas? Isn't there more to it than even the memories of our childhood in the world and our childhood in the faith?

Christmas is just the beginning of the story of that child called Jesus. We also celebrate another holiday called Easter, a celebration of the reality that this child born in Bethlehem still lives, despite the death

of the cross the child still lives. Jesus still lives. That child, sent to us so many centuries ago, still lives. Part of that child lives within me. Part of that child lives within you. Part of that child lives within each one of us. It is not an accident that the Scriptures repeatedly refer to us as the Children of God.

This expression, the Children of God, can't be found in the Old Testament. The expression is born of the New Testament event of the birth of Christ. Luke 20: 36 tells us: "Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection."

Matthew 5:9 tells us: "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God."

Romans 8:16 tells us: "The spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together."

If you would recapture the excitement and joy of Christmas, if you would once again be filled with anticipation and magic - let the child that lives within you live! Let the child within you live in child-

Have you ever known a time when you couldn't remember what happened the night before because of your drinking?

Have you ever lost a job or gotten into trouble with the police because of your drinking?

Have you ever gotten drunk because you needed that excuse to have enough courage to vent your anger with someone?

-- Alcoholics Anonymous can help you!

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43RD AND 44TH WARD CANDIDATE FORUMS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 1 PM: 44th Ward race for the City Council.
Candidates Bernard Hansen, John Masini, Robert Weisman.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 7:30 PM: 43rd Ward race. Incumbent Martin Oberman
and his three challengers: Joseph Doyle, Barbara Wood, Bruce Douglas.

In the Parish Center. Co-sponsored by Wellington Avenue Church.

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The shepherd's STAFF

KANTER REPORTS

JANUARY: A LARGE TURNOUT FOR A LONG MEETING AT GSP

WHO CARES? WELL, OVER 35% of the membership of Good Shepherd Parish, or 71 official members, plus five friends, cared enough to sit through a 3-1/2 hour Annual Meeting of the Congregation in the Parish Center on Sunday, January 16, 1983, a meeting in which the persons present grappled with major personnel and budget decisions and hoped, in the words of the Quakers, that the collective wisdom of the group would be greater than that of any one individual.

The core of the meeting was the discussion of the 1983 proposed budget and the church's financial position. Tom Myles, Treasurer for the year 1982, gave a report covering September through December and explained the December 31, 1982 financial statement. Additional figures were supplied by Eleanor Aldred in the Secretary's Report. Although average attendance at



church services has been dropping (155 in 1980, 143 in 1981, 124 in 1982), the general offering has actually increased, a fact which would indicate a faithful commitment by those who are now here. Approximately \$42,250 in pledges was collected in 1982, plus an additional \$10,000 from the General Offering. Adding to this about \$750 from the Christmas Letter offering, the total comes to just about \$53,000 collected from offerings in 1982. GSP's total income, including fund-raising and other sources, came to approximately \$66,900, and total expenses were about \$65,450, which left the church with a positive operating balance of \$1,450, in contrast to the end of last year which saw GSP \$1,500 in the red. As Tom Myles pointed out, all this good news was due in large part to an extraordinary influx of money during the month of December: \$1,505 from the General Offering.

(cont. on page 2)

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH/MCC, CHICAGO

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This **not only** helps the Shepherd's
Staff but the church office too.
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SHEPHERD'S STAFF

POLICY

Shepherd's Staff is published monthly
and distributed free of charge. Shepherd's
Staff's intention is to convey the activities of
Good Shepherd Parish Metropolitan Com-
munity Church. Any opinions expressed
herein are not necessarily those of official
church policy.

OUR CHURCH

Good Shepherd Parish Metropolitan Com-
munity Church is open to all persons re-
gardless of affectional preference, race or
previous religious affiliation.

Worship Service: Sunday, 7:00 P.M. 615
West Wellington, Chicago. 24-Hour tele-
phone: (312) 472-8708

plus the Christmas Letter money.
It was this which pulled the check-
book balance out of the red and
left GSP with an operating surplus.
And so the much debated question
over the 1983 budget was: Does GSP
now have good reason to count on an
even better year during 1983, and a
continued weekly offering of over
\$1,000 -- Or are the 1982 figures
skewed by the large December offer-
ing, and is it time to tighten our
belts while we are ahead? And where
does faith enter into all this?

The Board of Directors' recommended
budget for 1983 was based on a
slightly smaller general offering
than that received during 1982.
Many expenses were cut to the bone,
and while the Associate Pastor's
salary was increased from \$7,600 to
\$10,000, the Senior Pastor's salary
was cut (voluntarily) from \$15,000
to \$13,500. As an alternative to
this, Ken Keyser presented a series
of amendments suggesting that we
assume an increased general offering
in 1983 which, along with cuts in a
few other areas, would allow GSP to
pay the Associate Pastor, Celena
Duncan, \$11,960 and the Senior
Pastor, Jay Deacon, \$15,600. After
much debate the congregation ap-
proved these amendments to the pro-
posed budget by a vote of 40 to 27
with 4 abstentions. Then the re-
vised budget passed by a vote of
54 to 15 with 2 abstentions.

Next came the election of three
persons to fill vacancies on the

Jeff La Londe

Hopefully everyone interested
has had enough time to start
thinking about a personal budget.
By now short term and long term
goals are defined, actual income
has been estimated, fixed monthly
expenses determined, a reasonable
savings figure planned, a detailed
daily expense amount figured -- and
now is the time to take out the
cash journal books and calculators.

So now, just what do you do with
all this information to construct a
workable personal budget?

The first step is to construct a
financial plan, or information sheet.
A financial plan can be used to
guide week to week spending or from
one month to the next; it's up to
your personal needs.

An example of a financial plan is
as follows:

Income _____	
Savings _____	Electricity _____
Rent _____	Emergency fund _____
Car Payment _____	Entertainment _____
Church Pledge _____	Insurance _____
Weekly expenses _____	Medical _____
Charge accounts _____	Transportation _____
Grocery expenses _____	Student Loans _____
Phone _____	Short term _____
	goals _____
	Long term _____
	goals _____

The detail of a financial plan will
also depend on personal choice. If
you just need a guide as to where
your money is going, your plan will
be simple and compact. Or, you may

want a more detailed plan where at
a moment's glance you will have all
the factors of your personal fi-
nances available.

Now of course everyone's financial
plan will be different according to
individual needs. Actually, quite
a bit of information can be learned
through the categories of your fi-
nancial plan. After you have out-
lined budget categories and amounts,
take some time and study just where
your income is going. You might be
surprised to learn that a bulk of
your income is going to certain
expense areas, and may want to
change that situation, freeing up
money for other areas in your budget.

Your project this issue is to de-
velop a weekly or monthly personal
financial plan. Include your ex-
pected flexible and variable ex-
penses. Create your own budget
categories that include your
expenses. Budget your categories
and compare it to your income.
Your plan should balance (You
may have to revise it several
times). Use whatever works best
for you, something that you will
use. Be realistic.

The next article will deal with
evaluating your personal budget
after having lived with it --
how to revise the budget to meet
your needs, and some helpful hints
when using your personal budget.

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to gay adolescents. The packet of information contains the
book, Loving Someone Gay by Don Clark. It contains a letter
to the gay student, a letter to the counselor and comments
from young people at Gay Horizons Gay Youth. If you want to
know more about the packet, call us at 975-0707.

Help us to continue our work.

Send us your name, address, phone number- and a check.

Board of Directors. Candidates
chosen by the Nominating Committee
included: David Bohn, Jeanne DuFort,
Alvin Fletcher, Jim Geiger and Mark
Sherkow. Nominated from the floor
were Bob Gappa and Carol Ann Kyrias.
Elected were Jeanne DuFort and Carol
Ann Kyrias, with 35 votes each; and
it appeared that Bob Gappa, with 34
votes, had also been elected. After
the meeting had ended, however, it
was pointed out that a Board member
must be elected by a majority of the
members present, and that 34 out of
68 votes cast was not a majority.
Therefore, on Monday night, the
Board of Directors voted that there
should be a special Meeting of the
Congregation on Sunday, February 13,
1983 at 4:30 p.m. In the interim
they have appointed Mark Sherkow to
serve on the Board until next month's
meeting, at which time the congrega-
tion will once again vote for a new
Board member to fill the third vacan-
cy, and will also vote to fill a 4th
vacancy left by the resignation of
Al Wardell, whose commitments as
head of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian
Task Force make it impossible for him
to finish his term on the GSP Board.

Also approved by the congregation
were the pastoral appointments of
Lyda Carter to a 3-year term as
Deacon and Marshall Williams to the
Adjunct Staff in Ministry. Lyda,
who spent last year as an Exhorter,
has realized that her present voca-
tion lies not in UFMCC parish minis-
try but rather in pastoral counsel-
ing, staff development and leader-
ship training at GSP. Marshall,

former pastor of MCC, Minneapolis
and a candidate for UFMCC ordination
next July, will be working with
Celena and Jay on a new Deacon
Training Program and will also be
available at the church for coun-
seling on Wednesday, Thursday,
Saturday and Sunday. Finally it was
voted that the Board of Directors be
authorized to represent GSP in the
exercise of official voting privi-
leges in the Church Federation of
Greater Chicago, should the Federa-
tion ever decide to recognize GSP
as a member.

And there were brief previews of
coming events. Wayne Bradley, head
of the Social Ministry Area, high-
lighted two benefits: a Magic Show
on February 12 and a Sock Hop (!).
Jack Boren of the Support Ministry
announced that there will be a
spring cleaning day in May and that
persons are always needed to clean
up the Parish Center, lock up after
services, and do other prosaic but
necessary chores. And Cynthia
Marquard, head of the Spiritual Life
Ministry, announced a forum on The
Future Growth of Spiritual Life at
GSP, to be held at 7:30 on March 3,
and asked that any persons with
ideas or directions for GSP's
spiritual life contact her.

Acting as Parliamentarian during
this meeting was LeRoy Mosley.
Lourie August and Joe Desbles
served as Sergeants at Arms. The
meeting was adjourned around 6 p.m.
to the great relief of all present.
To be continued in February

VIEWS FROM NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND BOARD CANDIDATES

As mentioned several times during the course of the Congregational Meeting, the uncertainty of GSP's direction during the coming year has been a source of conflict and doubt. Jay noted that the Board and Staff have been dealing with this question by way of joint meetings, plans for a Day of Envisioning in March, and consideration of the option of two worship services each Sunday. Following are brief statements by new Board members and candidates for the Board of their goals and visions for GSP. (Two candidates were uncertain whether they would continue to run for the Board, and so declined to comment.)

Mark Sherkow is concerned with outreach. He wants to see GSP become more visible in the greater community, and also available to more people as a resource. He wants the outside community to know what GSP stands for. He also believes strongly in lay ministry and lay involvement in the church at all levels. He wants to see the laity, the ordinary church members, involved in making decisions and planning as well as in clerical and other mundane tasks.

Carol Ann Kyrias is eagerly and fearfully looking forward to the opportunity to create Something out of Nothing, as Meister Eckhardt would say (the Nothing being a check-book with a zero balance as of mid-January). She believes that GSP can grow, not just survive. She believes that the leaders of the church need to practice stewardship: the wise use of their resources. She believes that church finances should follow the direction of the church's mission, and that the spiritual and the practical aspects of church life can and must be integrated.

Bob Gappa is also concerned with the budget and with accountability. He has an background in accounting, and has assisted in preparing and monitoring a \$72 million payroll budget at the University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics. He wants to see GSP prioritize its spending goals, and budget for them accordingly. He also would like to see revision of the church's by-laws so that they might be broad-based and flexible enough to allow for effective management of a maturing church.

First, we have to identify the barriers that are blocking the free flow of love and remove them. The biggest barrier is being self-centered. There are questions we can ask to determine how extensive this block is. "What will I gain?" must give way to "What will we gain?" In a conflict situation, we can teach ourselves to ask: "If I win, do you lose? Or can I work things out so that we both win?" Then the love that is of God can flow freely.

If learning to love is harder for lesbians and gay men, then the fruits of the striving will be all the richer. There may not be as many teachers, but we can learn from each other. We can share our struggles and triumphs, and never stint in our support and encouragement.

Unfortunately, loving can be a one-way street. When the one whom we love does not love us in return, the heartbreak that too often results is very real. Even so, if mutual love is impossible, it is better to love than to be loved. All taking and no giving inflates one's sense of self-importance dangerously and can have disastrous results for the kind of person we become.

On the other hand, all giving and no receiving is not the most desirable state of affairs, but it is better than no love at all, in either direction. For it is true that the only thing we ever have without fail, without loss, without fear that it will be withdrawn, is the love we give away. That is a paradox, but most real truths in love involve some form of paradox. Jesus' teachings were full of them.

Think through the seeming contradictions to the core of this truth. Material possessions can be destroyed. Fame and fortune can be taken away. And the love someone else has for you can be withdrawn at any time. But the love that arises from deep within yourself is constant. The more you let it out into the world, the more it multiplies. You never lose it.

So learning how to love, learning to identify the barriers to love and then how to get rid of them, is one of the most important endeavors we will ever undertake.

May all your valentines over the years to come be honest and real -- and loving.

LEARNING HOW TO LOVE

Jill Drum

The new year prompts thoughts of new beginnings, and Valentine's day prompts thoughts of love -- the two themes for this combined January/February issue of the Shepherd's Staff. Good luck and God's blessings for all those whose new beginnings have been cast in the form of resolutions. May these changes that they seek in their lives be meaningful and lasting.

It seems certain that some new beginnings involve lovers and loving, perhaps getting off to a good start with a new lover, or perhaps seeking a turning-point for the better in an ongoing relationship. Either way, chances are that some of you have signalled your wishes for deeper love by choosing just the right valentine.

Sending valentines to express love and affection is a time-honored tradition. When we feel affection for someone, it seems to be inspired by the other person, by his or her effect on us, whereas love arises from deep wells within ourself. It is my belief that all love comes from God, that we human

beings are channels through which God's love pours out into the world.

The part we are to play in this divine scheme of increased loving is to keep the channels open, to remove any blocks that may be preventing love from flowing freely. This task is not an easy one; quite the opposite, it can be very difficult. Some people are lucky enough to have had good examples to follow throughout their lives -- parents, teachers, pastors, friends who knew how to love them and from whom they could learn.

For loving has to be learned. It does not come naturally. The instinct for survival, which means focusing on the self, operates from birth; self-giving, however, is not an instinct but an acquired skill. Without the ability to give of oneself, and to go on giving and giving, there can be no true love. Those who did not have enough loving people around them in childhood often have a hard struggle to learn to love in youth or adulthood. But it is certainly possible for those who make the decision that a life of love is important to them.

Jim Geiger: "I am committed to helping GSP grow, to help make us better known as a place of unique spirit and welcome; and also to improving inreach, so that we don't forget or become insensitive to our existing congregation as we grow outward."

Jeanne DuFort is concerned with fiscal responsibility and feels that her strong management abilities will be an asset to the Board. She enjoys making decisions, which she bases as much as possible on the available information and not on preconceived notions, and she is not afraid of making a mistake or two. "If one thing doesn't work, well, we'll just try another, until we find something that does."

HOWARD BROWN MEMORIAL CLINIC

Sunday 2:00 - 4:30 PM
Tuesday 7:00 - 9:30 PM
Wednesday 7:00 - 9:30 PM
Thursday 7:00 - 9:30 PM

2676 N. Halsted Chicago, IL 60614
(312)871-5777

GSP THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE

JESUS

NEW MEMBER COURSE

Who was he? What can we know about him? What did he do and teach? What can he mean to us today?

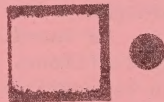
You are invited to struggle with these questions and more about the central figure in Christian history.

Five Thursdays: March 10, 17, 24, 31; and April 7, 7:30 pm. Course leader: Jay Deacon.

Introduction to a Community of Faith. Required for membership in GSP. Five Thursdays:

April 14, 21, 28; May 5, 12, at 7:30 pm. (April 14: "You tell your story, we'll tell ours." April 21: "Understanding the Bible." April 28: "Homosexuality and the Bible." May 5: Spirituality and a faith of your own." May 12: On being an effective member of GSP.

Point of VIEW



Phil Luing

from my journal

Once, during my senior year of college, when we'd been running a humyn rights series in the school paper coincidentally with reports of a small fir tree planted in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. being vandalized -- cut off, chopped at, burned; and each time replaced -- it was March and I was walking one morning past the tree and it was again broken over, and I became enraged -- deeply, deeply angry, more angry than I'd ever felt, seething yet contained, a cold fury invisible; I can't describe it or explain why I felt it even now -- but as I kept walking a friend greeted me, and I tried to blurt out the news as a reporter would, but I totally broke down crying because of all the hatred, stupidity, blindness, bigotry, foolishness which laughed at me, and I knew I had to respond actively and fully with my life.

TO THE EDITOR:

OF POLITICS AND PAIN

The beginning of a New Year (albeit somewhat faded by the time you are reading this) leads to an evaluation of new and old commitments. For example: Why does one attend a church? In particular, why Good Shepherd Parish? Each person has their own reasons; mine have to do with being part of a certain kind of community, one that grows out of the Reality of a Transcendent Love which we call God, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, and being grounded in the experience of that Great Love, has as its chief purpose this: that we might live in love and make the experience of love a reality for ourselves and for the world in which we live.

Now I personally do not give a rap what anyone chooses to call this Supreme Reality. That is between them and their God. Indeed, it is misleading and even dangerous to use the word "love," which has been watered down to stand for a shallow, sloppy kind of sentimentality, the furthest thing imaginable from what I am talking about. Unfortunately there is no other word which adequately expresses my greatest concern for GSP: that we embody, in our words and in our actions, a genuinely loving community.

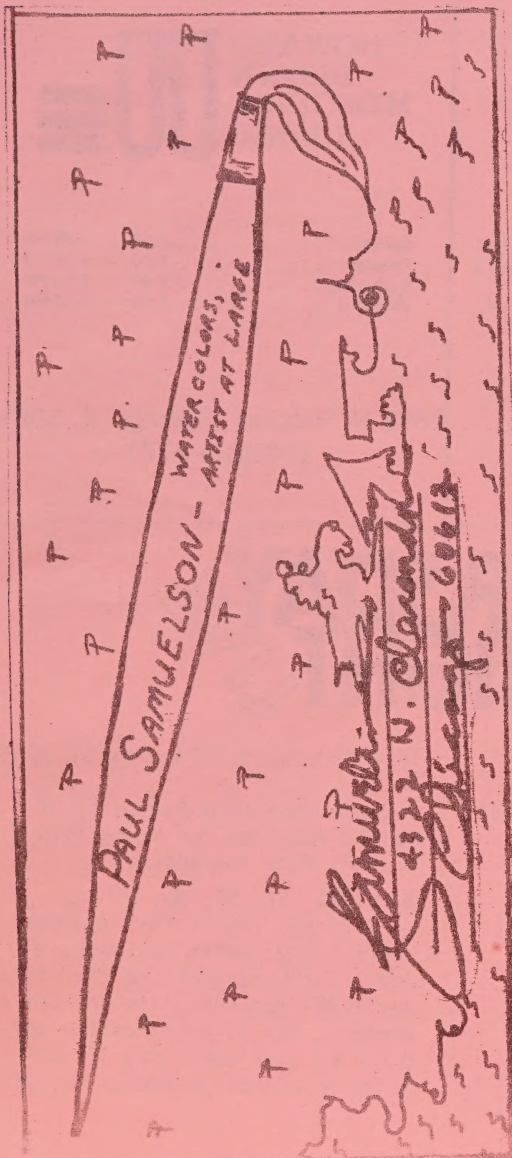
And is this what I see here? Not lately. Lately I have been appalled at the bickering, the backbiting, the pettiness, the out-and-out

childishness, the inability to see the forest of community for the trees of our individual quarrels and hatreds. I point no fingers. I see it on all sides. It cuts across any theological differences. I ask only: What is the bottom line here? Is it money? Is it proper interpretation of the By-Laws? Is it having worship services that conform to one or another set of proper liturgical standards? If so, I am leaving.

What I wish to see is a community whose bottom line is this: Are we learning to love, both within and beyond our church? Have we grown in love? Granted, this is not something one can measure in a financial statement. But, for God's sake, it is the only accurate measure of the health of a church. I wish to see us learn to express our anger with one another in a loving way, since anger is not outside the domain of love. I wish to see us replace suspicion and self-righteousness with mutual trust, respect and forbearance. I wish to hear less talk about spirituality and see more acts of kindness. And along with all this hard work, we might have some fun together.

I do not mean to be totally negative. If I had not experienced much caring and concern at GSP, I would not still be here. I do not expect perfection. I believe in the ultimate good intentions of us all. But come on, folks: Let's cut the crap. We can do better than this.

Andrea Kanter



to insure that we are still moving in the right direction. This compass serves as an external input to temper our subjective feelings.

In my life, I use Jesus' life and teachings as a guide. Jesus often spoke about the nature of reality. Jesus described God as a loving Parent intimately present to us in our everyday lives to help us cope with problems. Christ teaches us to pattern our relationships with other people along the same lines as God follows in dealing with creation.

I happen to have been trained as a scientist, and I must disagree with Phil's statement that "energy is not in control of itself, with things happening for many little reasons, and no big Reason." I find that the control energy is under to be awe-inspiring. The energy matrix which, for example, makes up a pigeon today does not suddenly change into a rock or a pocket calculator, but remains a pigeon until its life ends, even afterward the process follows natural laws. I believe God is in some ways like an artist who has created a magnificent work of art which operates under the guidance of natural laws which are also created by God. Also, like Jesus, I believe that some of the nature of God can be deduced from the physical world. For don't we often say, in admiring art, that we can see something of the artist in the artwork?

Jack Boren

point of VIEW

To the Editor:

Phil Luing's November Editorial has led me to take up the offer at the end of each column and write a response. (I suspect that part of Phil's reason for writing his column is to provoke thought.)

I agree that our major task while we are alive is to cope with our down-to-earth, everyday problems. The tough part is: how do we select a solution from the various alternative actions which are available to us? Obviously, the primary basis for decision comes from our personal values. But where do these values come from? Anthropology and child psychology show us that humans are not born pre-programmed with values. We have to develop them as we grow.

But developing personal values is not necessarily the ultimate solution. Hitler certainly had personal values, which led him to an unspeakably evil "solution" to the "Jewish problem". So, as we travel on our personal faith journeys, developing our values, we need to consult a compass from time to time

...and from a letter to my sister, answering her questions

At this point in my thinking, I would explain God as all the energy in the universe known and unknown to physics; spirituality as how we as bits of that energy interact with the totality of it in ways known and unknown to psychology and biology; God's Will as that quiet inner voice or instinct which leads our spirituality; and God's Grace as the joy we feel when we honestly explore the depths of that voice or instinct.

...I do believe that Jesus was God as we all are in that we have within us that incredible creative power named God which happened when the universe exploded into being from out of the void, and continues to happen...I believe Jesus accepted himself as a special person, an example for people to follow, exhorting people to do as he did, be God as he was God -- not to worship as an idol beyond humyn attainment, a judgement of the humyn condition because he was better than anyone could hope to be. The idolotry of worshipping Jesus Christ, I believe, has little to do with the truths Jesus taught.

***The opinions expressed on the editorial page are those of the writer and do not necessarily speak on behalf of Good Shepherd Parish, MCC or the Shepherd's Staff. Please address any comments to: Editorial, the Shepherd's Staff; Good Shepherd Parish, MCC; 615 W. Wellington; Chicago, IL 60657.*

PASSOVER PROGRAM AT GSP

What is the significance of Passover? Does it have any relevance for the Christian church? How has Jewish history affected not only Jewish culture but also the origins of many church traditions?

These questions and others will be answered during the course "The Passover Haggadah." To be held on Wednesday evenings March 9, 16, 23. The course will culminate with a celebration of the Passover on March 30 at 7:30 p.m. The celebration of the Passover with a formal Seder will be open to all; however, the experience will be more meaningful if you have taken the course. To be held in the lounge at 7:30. The course will be taught by Marshall Williams.

SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Editor.....Scott Phipps

News.....Mark Sherkow,
Jill Drum

Editorials.....Phil Luing

Layout....Phil Luing,

Jeff Labonde

Printing.....M. Troy De Witt

by Mark Sherkow

MATTHEW FOX: "THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF THE HOMOSEXUAL
AND JUST ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE"

There are fundamental differences between the "Fall-Redemption" spirituality taught by most Christian churches in the Western World today, and the "Creation-Centered" approach advocated by Matthew Fox and the "Institute for Creation-Centered Spirituality" which he heads at Mundelein College. And homosexuals can be seen as being especially gifted to help spread the gospel in the Creation-Centered approach, while they are usually victimized by the beliefs of the Fall-Redemption approach. These were two of the main points made by Fox in his talk at GSP Thursday, September 16.

The Fall-Redemption approach begins with sin, according to Fox. Because of the doctrine of Original Sin, human beings are seen as coming into the world with a blotch on their existence. All of Christ is then seen as a way to help us move out of Original Sin.

However, Original Sin is not in the Bible; it was the idea of St. Augustine, a person who never got over his inability to control his sexuality. And the subtle implication of this doctrine is that sexuality and sensuality is bad, that the ultimate spiritual move

is up a ladder away from sensuality, from the earth, feelings and matter to a contemplative and angelic relationship with God. Fox rejects that approach as an unhealthy way to begin our theology.

The Creation-Centered tradition, Fox points out, is actually an older tradition, dating from the tenth century B.C. and including among its proponents such names as Theresa, Hildegard, and especially Meister Eckhart. According to this tradition, spirituality consists of waking up and living an awakened life--waking up to our beauty and our pain, to our capacity for healing and creativity, and to the fact that we all are, by our nature, divine. Our divinity, says Fox, is one of the best-kept secrets of Christianity. But Jesus and Paul and John tried to teach us that we are all sons and daughters of God. Thus this approach emphasizes celebration of life, and sees spirituality as a constant process of awakening to life.

Further, according to liberation theology, the gospel of Jesus

says that the good news is found primarily in the oppressed groups in society. Jesus speaks most clearly through the experience of oppressed people, such as homosexuals.

Fox went on to talk of the four paths of the Spiritual Journey as outlined by Meister Eckhart: (1) the Via Positiva, or way of pleasure, worked by the feeling of delight and joy in the blessing of the world; (2) the Via Negativa, the dark way, the awareness and acceptance of pain and suffering; (3) the Via Creativa, the creative way, which comes out of pain and emptiness; and (4) the Via Transformation, the way of justice and compassion, where we use our creativity for positive change for our world.

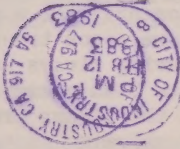
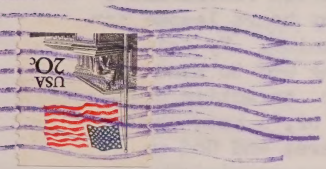
Fox is the author of several books, including Whee, We Wee All the Way Home: A Guide to a Sensual, Prophetic Spirituality; Western Spirituality: Historical Roots, Ecumenical Routes; and Breakthrough: Meister Eckhart's Creation Spirituality in New Translation.

The two traditions have different views of homosexuals, and potentially different effects on homosexuals. The Fall-Redemption approach sees all sexual feelings as unhealthy and sinful and therefore sees active homosexuals in this light. Homosexuals are, if they believe in this way, very vulnerable to self-doubt and self-hate. And they are also vulnerable to trying to escape these feelings through such things as consumerism (if they are in the middle class), clinging to youth, or excessive pursuit of internal security, religious security, or liturgical security.

There is a different reaction to this negative view of the Fall-Redemptive theology, however. One can reject the negative views and accept one's body, and thus move to a greater self-trust and a deeper awareness of both the beauty and the pain of life. Homosexuals who make this response are in fact living a creative-centered life, and beginning the spiritual journey of self-affirmation and awareness of the blessing of life.

DATED MATERIAL

M.C.C. - Boston
131 Cambridge St.
Boston, Mass. 02114



Metropolitan Community Church
of San Gabriel Valley
13040 E. Valley Boulevard
Bassett, Calif. 91746

MCC San Gabriel Valley

3rd Anniversary Celebration

DINNER - DANCE - DJ - SPIRITS - DOOR PRIZE

SATURDAY - MARCH 5th, 1983

DINNER AT 7:00 PM

KIWANIS HALL

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NO HOST COCKTAILS 6:00 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT CHURCH OFFICE, CALL (968-4345

\$5.00 per person.

S.G.V.

M.C.C.

WORDS OF PRAISE

3RD ANNIVERSARY

*"Nothing is Impossible",
in Christ!!*

February/March 1983

Volume II Number I



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Of San Gabriel Valley

13040 East Valley Boulevard - Bassett, Calif. 91746 - (213) 968-4345

PASTOR:

Rev. Virgil Hendershot

COORDINATOR OF MUSIC:

Steve Zurenda

SINGSPARATION/CHOIR DIRECTOR:

Eddie Ochoa-Schutz

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Chuck Edgington

Lenora Hagerman

Keith Henry

Carlos Medrano

Ron Oliver

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY	Morning Worship Service	11:00AM
	Evening Prayer & Praise	6:00PM
	Evening Worship Service	6:30PM
WEDNESDAY	Evening Bible Study	7:30PM

Counselling is available by appointment: Call our 24 hour line 968-4345

"WORDS OF PRAISE" is a bi-monthly community newsletter and published by MCC - San Gabriel Valley.

"WORDS OF PRAISE" welcomes all viewpoints and strives to be nondiscriminatory in its editorial policy. The material printed herein are all original unless otherwise credited. Opinions expressed in all stories and articles are those of the writer and not necessarily those of MCC-SGV or UFMCC. Publication of the name of any individual, group, or business shall not be construed as an indication of their sexual or religious orientation.

All written or artistic materials may be submitted in c/o MCC-SGV, att: "WORDS OF PRAISE". All materials become property of MCC-SGV and cannot be returned.

A Newcomer's Message... Steve Zurenda

Sunday, November 28th, 1982 was to become a very important day in my life as well as an answer to prayer by the family of MCC-SGV!

Previous to that date I was residing on weekends in Palm Springs when I happened on a newspaper listing worship service at MCC-SGV. Being new to the Los Angeles area, I was visiting various churches in search for a "home" church. After a phone call and a prayer that I wouldn't get lost, I set out for Bassett, California, home of the Metropolitan Community Church of San Gabriel Valley. My directions led me to a small shopping center, just off the 605 freeway..... at first I thought I was lost because I didn't find a church building, but the minute I went thru the door of the converted restaurant I knew I had found "home"! During family prayer my heart leaped for joy when I heard the congregation pray for a pianist. By faith this group had procured a piano and were now trusting God to send someone along who could play it. Having always been an active participant in every church that I've been a member of, I know that God had sent me to be the answer to the groups prayers; and God was answering my prayers as well by allowing me to use my ministry of music that He had given me.

Two months have passed since that date in November, and every Sunday has become, has truly become the best day of my week....a day that I really look forward to. The opportunity to be an instrumental part of the worship services, and working with a great pastor and congregation is the best answer to my prayers.

I'm prayerfully looking forward to my future as a part of the family of MCC-SGV and I thank God and that family for their faith and prayers which led me to Bassett, California.

May we continue to live in His will for our lives.

*Metropolitan
Community
Church of
San Gabriel
Valley*

*cordially invites you to come and
celebrate with us at our
3rd anniversary service*

"Nothing is Impossible"

Hear the "Reverend Elder Jeri Ann Harvey"

*Date: Sunday, March 6, 1983
Time: 6:30 p.m.
13040 East Valley Boulevard
Bassett, California 91746*

God's warranty, is in black and white for all to read. This is why you should be bold with your claims and stand on them. Be confident that your claim will be heard and fulfilled. When you start to realize that it is your right to claim that abundant life, that prosperous life, it will make other things easier and less of a burden to you. If the confidence is there, you will have no trouble tithing, even when you are low on cash. You will have no worry of where your food will come from. You will be confident about receiving a healing you may require. (see Luke 12: 22-31)

- Things to do:
- (A) Get involved in a Bible study.
 - (B) Do a daily home Bible study.
 - (C) Learn how to pray and praise God.
 - (D) Stand on the promises of God.
 - (E) Spread the news of Jesus the Christ.

Tony Maloco

HAVE YOU? a poem by Julie Anderson

Have you taken the time to talk to Jesus today? To look at the snow topped mountains on this crispy Winter day?

Have you looked at the color of the beautiful leaves as they sway, or thanked Jesus for the bright new dawning, of a brand new day?

Or, have you stayed in your cozy warm bed, just sleeping away, missing all the beauty that Jesus has to display?

Have you thanked Jesus for all the love He has shown? For the miracle of birth, for the wonder of earth, for the freedom that we live in, to be able to love and to share, the precious gift He's given us to be able to show others how much we care?

Have you thanked Jesus for the one you love most dearly? For being able to hold them close, and talk to them most sincerely?

Have you thanked Jesus for the love He has shown us each day, the beauty of one caring, and to be able to freely pray?...Have you?

An Anniversary Message

Praise be to God and Congratulations to all of you who are a part of the family of MCC-SGV. We are ending three years of growth. Some of us have been together for the three years, and others are new to the family. We have all changed and grown through the period which we have been together.

The three years have been filled with fun, and great memories, but those are all behind us. We must look forward to the future.

What does the next year hold? I believe that we will continue to grow spiritually and in the knowledge of the word of God. I am looking forward to the next year, realizing the positive change that is taking place in so many lives. As we all continue to grow in the love of God and the love for each other, the logical result is a growth in numbers.

We have a positive message that our sisters and brothers need to hear and see. Many of you are realizing this and have begun to really share with each other. This one to one exchange will lead to growth.

I am looking forward with great anticipation to this next year. We should all look forward to the next twelve months with excitement. New programs will be presented, more people will become a part of our family, but what I find to be the most exciting is seeing the change in each one of you. As you each exercise that love of Jesus the Christ.

God has certainly blessed us these past three years. We are thankful for this, however, we have learned to expect and accept only the best for the family of God. We claim this and are praising God that it has already occurred.

In closing I just want to say thanks to each one of you for your love and support. It is great to know that whatever happens, we are secure and safe in God and that God has already provided for ALL our needs. I love each one of you and praise God for each one of you.

Your Pastor & brother, Rev. Virgil Hendershot

What is Lent?

By Steve Zurenda

Now that Christmas is over, whats next??? The hectic, joyful season has come and gone. Special worship services, Christmas music, party's, poinsettias, and presents; but by Christmas Day everything was accomplished. Then comes that much needed rest which is short lived when I look at the church calendar and see that the penitential season is just around the corner. "O Sacred Head Now Wounded"..... Purple.....Ashes....."Were you there when They Crucified My Lord"... Holy Week.....Palms..... Now that Christmas is over Lent is upon us.

As a child I found the Lenten season to be depressing and very somber. I had to give up something. (usually some little thing that my Mother picked), purple colors were everywhere in church, and Good Friday meant three long hours in church and quietness for the rest of the day.

Today, the Lenten season has a new meaning for me. It's a season of reflection, self- assesment, and deep gratitude. In Christ's death I was given the opportunity to have eternal life; and I thank God that I was able to exercise that opportunity to ask Christ to come into my life.

Today as we prepare for the Lenten season, let us think about Christ dying on the cross, and let us recall that special moment when we Asked Christ to come into our lives. Let us resolve to give of ourselves to Christ, as God gave of His Son for us.

Congratulations

MCC SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

ON YOUR

3RD ANNIVERSARY

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AUTHOR OF HOW TO BE A COUPLE & STILL BE FREE

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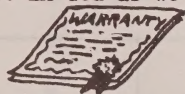
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Warranty

There are times in everyone's lives when we take people at their word. How many of us have been hurt, or embarrassed, due to placing too much trust in some people who have given us their word.

With God we don't have this kind of a disappointment, yet we hesitate to trust in the word of God. Why? It's a pity we find it so hard to take God's promises seriously enough to boldly step out in them, and trust in God as we do in others.



When we go to a store to purchase an item that helps make our lives more pleasant, we most often check the item's warranty. Most warranties have a time limit applied to them. When we accept Jesus Christ as our personal savior, we have a warranty that goes into effect.

What makes this warranty so special? Two things make it special and valuable to us.

- (1) The warranty is non expiring.
- (2) It's fully backed by the manufacturer (God).

God's warranty, also known as the Bible, is a document with many pages which cover every situation, from A-Z. It is also a trouble shooter, an operator manual, and an overhaul manual.

When you have to return, say a TV for instance, to a store for a warranty repair. Not only is it a royal pain in the kazoo, but you have no guarantee of a satisfactory conclusion. This is particularly the case when the clerk whom you entrusted with your TV plugs it into the 220 volt circuit and your TV becomes a toaster.

The Bible is a very complex warranty that requires careful study. This is why attending a Bible study class is imperative to us all. You must understand your warranty before you can lay claim to anything that is rightfully yours.

You know how hesitant you can be to confront a clerk for replacement of a defective item when you have nothing in writing, to back your claim. Well, on the other hand, when you have a written warranty you can be bold with the clerk. Because, you know you have the right to the claim.

Mistaken Identity?

By Doris Doty

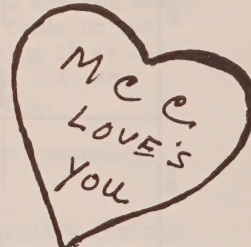
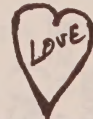
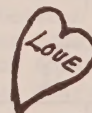
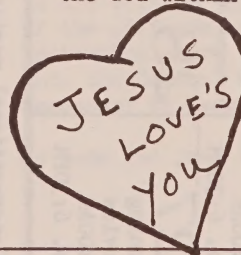
The other evening I was introduced as "The Jeri Ann Harvey of San Gabriel Valley". Of course we all know there is only one Reverend Harvey.

There are some similarities. We are both women, both native American, have brown hair, brown eyes, wear glasses, are on the shady side of forty-five, have well rounded, uhhh! personalities and neither of us need a microphone to be heard. Well, normally I'd say the resemblance would end there.

Not so, I left out the most important thing of all. We are both ministers. Reverend Harvey spent a long time studying and for her efforts she has been given the responsibility of pastoring a very large church.

Well, I am not educated and a collar doesn't fit my neck, but I have the same responsibility. We, each one are charged to preach the good news of Jesus Christ. I don't have to sit up nights and write sermons, fight with my board of directors, plead for money to make the church bills, and all those other wonderful things church pastors must do. No body recognizes me when I walk down a street or interrupts my dinner in a public restaurant. But God can't tell us apart.

Ministers all, we are faceless before our God. As long as we live in the way we have been commanded, if we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives, if we spread the good news and do the miracles in Christ's, name. If we allow the blessings of the Spirit to give us the abundant life we have been promised, then it's true. I can be San Gabriel Valley's Jeri Ann Harvey, or EVEN, Doris Doty. God only sees my spirit, and people should recognize only the God within me.



FEBRUARY 1983

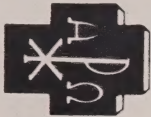
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Bible Study 7:30 PM	3	4 Board Meeting 7:30 PM	5
6 * Morning Service 11:00AM Eve. 6:30PM	7	8	9 Bible Study 7:30 PM	10 Choir Practice 7:00 PM	11	12 Valentines Dance 8:00 PM
13 Morning Service 11:00AM Eve. 6:30PM	14 Valentine's Day	15	16 Bible Study 7:30 PM Ash Wednesday	17 Choir Practice 7:00 PM	18 Board Meeting 7:30 PM	19 TAB mtg. 3:30 PM Pot Luck
20 Morning Service 11:00AM Eve. 6:30PM	21 Washington's Holiday	22	23 Bible Study 7:30 PM	24 Choir Practice 7:00 PM	25	26 Church Clean-up
27 Morning Service 11:00AM Eve. 6:30PM	28					

* Congregational meeting immediately following morning service, Pot Luck

MARCH 1983

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Bible Study 7:30 PM	3 Choir Practice 7:00 PM	4	5 3rd Anniv. Dinner Dance 7:00PM Kiwanis Hall
6 Morning Service 11:00AM Eve. 6:30PM**	7	8	9 Bible Study 7:30 PM	10 Choir Practice 7:00 PM	11 Board Meeting 7:30 PM	12
13 Morning Service 11:00AM Eve. 6:30PM	14	15	16 Bible Study 7:30 PM	17 Choir Practice 7:00 PM	18	19 Goals Meeting 10:00 AM
20 Morning Service 11:00AM Eve. 6:30PM	21	22	23 Bible Study 7:30 PM	24 Choir Practice 7:00 PM	25	26
27 Morning Service 11:00AM Eve. 6:30PM Palm Sunday	28	29	30 Bible Study 7:30 PM	31 Choir Practice 7:00 PM		

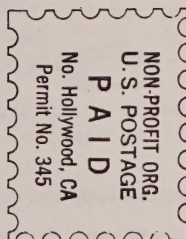
** 3RD ANNIVERSARY SERVICE 6:30PM, with the Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey



Valley Paraclete
5730 Cahuenga Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA 91601

MCC BOSTON
131 CAMBRIDGE ST.
BOSTON, MA 02114

DATED MATERIAL



FEBRUARY 1983



The PARACLETE is a publication of

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH IN THE VALLEY, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA.

Reverend Kenneth t. Martin, Pastor

91601

Open Letter to the Congregation of MCC in the Valley:

It has come to the attention of the Board of Directors that many people in our Congregation are designating their tithes to specific funds, i.e., Choir, Delegates, DUO, etc., rather than just letting their money go directly into the General Fund which runs the church. Presently, there is \$8,765 in the Designated Funds making these funds extremely solvent and in no need of donations at this time. We realize that every person is entitled to this privilege but we wanted to bring it to your attention that it is causing a severe drain on monies in the General Fund.

Monies in the General Fund are used to pay the mortgage; to pay the pastor and administrative assistant's salaries; to pay stipends to the choir director, organist and others, utilities, insurances (health, retirement, building), office supplies, postage for mailing the Paraclete, etc.

By Fellowship and local Bylaws, the first 30% of all monies received are designated to: UFMCC and Southwest District (15%), Building Fund (5%) and Benevolences (10%). This leaves a total of 70% of all monies --NOT DESIGNATED TO SPECIFIC FUNDS-- to keep our church doors open.

As we enter the 1983 fiscal year, we should keep in mind the financial needs of our Congregation and the fact that it takes \$1,980 per week to meet our budget for this year.

We are writing this because we feel that many of you are not aware of the differences between designating to specific funds or not indicating where your money is to go, thereby allowing it to flow into the General Fund for paying the every-day bills that are necessary to keep our church home open and functioning.

We hope and pray that you understand our concern and reasoning.

Yours in Christ,
Dee Donlan, Secretary for the
Board of Directors

QUOTES

"God....Church....Bible....Jesus....Prayer....

Most guess about the first, get disgusted with the second, can't understand the third, use the fourth to swear, And then,.... however ineffectively or imperfectly, we all try the last one." from Prayer is Invading the Impossible, by Jack W. Hayford

"Following are ten rules for getting effective results from prayer:

1.) Set aside a few minutes every day to simply practice thinking about God. This will make your mind receptive spiritually. 2.) Pray orally, using simple, natural words. Talk to God in your own language. 3.) Pray as you go about your business of the day. 4.) Don't always ask when you pray, but spend most of your prayers giving thanks. 5.) Pray with the belief that sincere prayers can reach out and surround your loved ones with God's love and protection. 6.) Never use a negative thought in prayer. 7.) Always express willingness to accept God's will. It may be better than what you ask for. 8.) Practice the attitude of putting everything in God's hands. 9.) Pray for people you do not like or who have mistreated you. Resentment is blockade number one of spiritual power. 10.) Make a list of people for whom to pray."

from The Power of Positive Thinking, by Norman Vincent Peale

" In a moment of weakness and doubt, I virtually convinced myself that God and I should both be phony in our mutual relationship. This would mean locking ourselves into scripted roles that must always be undeviating. Fortunately, I discovered that God did not want to pull the strings of my, or anyone else's life or treat us as if we were marionettes. God wanted me to be my own self, a growing one. God truly accepted me as someone involved in the continuing growth of becoming a more complete person. I was grateful.

I thanked God that God was God, not a capricious, ruthless, or self-centered deity lacking wholeness and truth.

I continue to thank God for this."

from Am I Running With You, God, by Malcolm Boyd

"The deepest healing comes through persons who have moved beyond condemnation, beyond forgiveness, into unconditional acceptance. As Maxwell Maltz has indicated, one can only forgive what one has first judged and condemned. We might add that we can only accept what we have forgiven. And we can only be accepting if we have given up on judgemental attitudes."

from The Gift of Inner Healing, by Ruth Carter Stapleton

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY Worship Services at 9 & 11 AM

The 11 AM Service is signed for non-hearing

MONDAY AT (Alcoholics Together) Men's Stag 8:30

TUESDAY Bible Study (beginning Feb. 22nd for five weeks)
"The Holy Spirit and you" led by Student Clergy

Ruby Grammer 7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY Choir Practice 7:30 PM

Sign Language Class 7:30 PM

THURSDAY Personal Growth Discussion Group 7:30 PM
Discussing a different subject weekly.

Monthly meetings

Feb. 7 Staff meeting

Feb. 14 Board of Directors

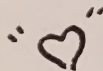
Feb. 19 Building Committee meeting 12 Noon

Feb. 28 DUO Committee and Christian Social Action

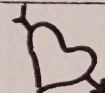
SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday February 5 Staff & Board Retreat-Holy Spirit Retreat, Encino

Friday February 11



VALENTINES DANCE

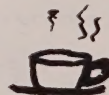


B.S.
W.B.

Bring your love or come and find one! The theme for this annual, fun event is RED, of course. Come. Romance and dance!

SUNDAY February 27

DELEGATE'S BRUNCH



Another fine delegate's brunch to help finance their trip to General Conference this summer. Follows the 11 AM service.

Followed by:

RECORD RELEASE PARTY honoring LEROY DYSART (3:30 to 5:30 PM)

This celebration will be hosted by Dick Follett and Victor Bruner at Dr. Bruner's home in La Canada. Please RSVP to 790-4044 if attending.

groups. This is yet another challenge that our new committee faces.

"Christian Social Action" faces monumental challenges. But monumental challenges build faith and also teach Christians how to struggle together against common problems. The Paraclete will fully accept the responsibility of keeping readers informed about the work of this new and vital group in our midst. Those who are not already involved in other areas within the church are urged to participate with brothers and sisters in this social action venture. Everyone should look forward with anticipation to challenges that Christian Social Action will present to our church as we learn to convert "believing" into "doing".

Brad Sydow

What Kind Of Country?

From a speech by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., April 4, 1967 at the Riverside Church in New York City.

"We must move past indecision to action. We must find new ways to speak for peace and justice throughout the developing world--a world that borders on our doors. If we do not act we shall surely be dragged down the long, dark, and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight.

Now let us begin. Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter--but beautiful--struggle for a new world. This is the calling of the children of God, and our brothers and sisters wait cagerly for our response. Shall we say the odds are too great? Shall we tell them the struggle is too hard? Will our message be that the forces of American life militate against their arrival as full men and women, and we send our deepest regrets?

Or will there be another response and message, of longing, of hope, of solidarity with their yearnings, of commitment to their cause, whatever the cost? The choice is ours, and though we might prefer it otherwise we must choose in this crucial moment of human history."

L.A. COUNTY JAIL MINISTRY

Deacon Garrett reports that from 30 to 90 prisoners at the County jail are attending our Sunday morning services. The responsibility for the weekly worship service is shared by MCC/Valley, MCC/L.A., and West Hollywood Presbyterian.

This ministry does have a few needs that readers may want to fill. Articles for the communion service and the altar are needed, such as chalices, altar cloth, standing cross/crucifix, and a briefcase to carry them. A service pamphlet or bulletin should be developed.. Bibles (paperback) and Christian literature are also a need. The deacons could also use some person help. A musician with a trans-portable instrument such as a guitar, would be immensely appreciated.

It would also help avoid the appearance of white missionaries from the Valley venturing into the jungle if we had some minority participation .

MIDGE COSTANZA SPEAKS AT VALLEY INTERFAITH COUNCIL BREAKFAST

Ms. Costanza, feminist/activist and former aide to President Carter, spoke at the well-attended January breakfast, a monthly event at the Valley Interfaith Council. She told the gathering that the strength of the United States lies not in its nuclear weaponry but in its people. She noted that the Soviet Union makes its moves during periods of internal problems, not because of nuclear threats. For example, the move into Afghanistan came after Carter's hold on foreign policy was wavering, and his popularity was reported at an all time low. Ms. Costanza explained how the nuclear arms issue is the prime human rights issue that overshadows all others. Nuclear arms threaten the right to live life itself, to be able to plan one's life, free from fear of mass destruction. She urged continual contact with elected representatives via the mail. She also urged churches and temples to make official pronouncements of their feelings on human rights issues every time government seems inattentive to violations--and to start with the nuclear arms issue. Ms. Costanza was very well recieved by VIC members.

BAN URGED ON GAY BLOOD DONATIONS

The organization representing hemophiliacs, sufferers from a blood disorder who often require massive amounts of donated blood, has urged that gays be banned from donating blood. Hemophiliacs have been contracting AIDS (acquired immunity deficiency) from transfusions. AIDS has been primarily confined to the gay population.

WHY CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION?

Why is the Christian called upon to "do" and not just "believe"? How can we discern what we are called upon to do as Christians, distinct from what we do as political persons? These are difficult questions. The formation of a "Christian Social Action Committee" at MCC/Valley will again bring these faith-struggles to the foreground of our concerns.

Evangelical, Jim Wallis, in his book "Call to Conversion", states the following about early Christians; "The early Christians were referred to as the people of 'the Way'...The faith of these first Christians had clear social results. They became well known as a caring, sharing, and open community that was especially sensitive to the poor and the outcast. Their love for God, for one another, and for the oppressed was central to their reputation. Their refusal to kill, to recognize racial distinction, or to bow down before the imperial deities was a matter of public knowledge...The early Christians were known for the way they lived, not for what they believed."

Throughout the history of Christendom there have been two kinds of Christians. One the one hand were those who accepted the status quo, acquiesced to those in power, and themselves participated in the injustice of the time whether it was slavery, persecution of Jews of other minorities, disregard for the poor, or the waging of wars, both just and unjust. These were balanced by faithful who stood before kings and refused to obey laws contrary to their beliefs, clergy and laity who devoted their lives to caring for the poor, activists who preached against slavery and aided those escaping from that evil practice, and pacifists of varied degree who called upon the world to consider the consequences of war after war. Christians in 1983 are not isolated from the choice of status quo and acquiescence, or resistance and Christian social action.

Humanity has always been confronted with dread and fear on one hand and hope on the other. In 1983 the struggle towards hope must first triumph over racism and prejudice, materialism, and militarism. That these evils are incompatible with the teachings of Jesus Christ is seldom questioned. How to struggle with the evil is a difficult question. We must first root the evil from our personal lives, then attempt to educate brothers and sisters in the church about such evils in our own midst, carry the fight to the larger community, and finally face a groaning world with hope and an answer. "Christian Social Action" will be our attempt to present Christian principles as an answer to evil, to oppression and exploitation, and to the threat of destruction.

Our struggle against materialism is probably most difficult since we are in essence a middle-class congregation. We have begun our combat with materialism by being a giving church. Our DUO (Do Unto Others) fund has been recognized by the congregation as vitally important, to the

point that the church voted not to allow this "tithe" to be available for borrowing to pay church bills! Many needy individuals and organizations have been aided in the past year by this fund. If difficult economic times remain much longer, this church will likely be called upon to do even more.

Racism is difficult to deal with since it is a sin most of us do not recognize in ourselves. "Christian Social Action" has a challenge there to face, since racism is a fact in our community as well as in the nation and the world. Bigotry and the resulting violence have always existed, and the present is no exception. In January the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights stated that racial and religious violence threaten the maintenance of a peaceful, democratic and pluralistic society in the United States. (L.A. Times, Jan. 11, 1983) They cite poor economic conditions and a widespread perception that the government is cutting back civil rights enforcement as contributing factors to racism and anti-Semitism. They note that a declining economy does not "create bigots or cause acts of violence against racial, religious, or other minorities, but coupled with the human propensity to find someone to blame, these conditions give rise to scapegoating." For example, whites who are unemployed find it easy to blame their plight on "reverse discrimination" in employment.

Historically those who are perceived as not suffering from hard economic times are resented, giving rise to hatred, violence, or laws that allow or promote discrimination. This is often the reason that Jews suffer during such times and to some extent the same can be said for gay men and lesbians. A common notion survives that Jews own businesses or are well off and are therefore immune from economic hardships. Gay and lesbian couples are seen as having two bread-winners and no children, and therefore must also be well off, while single gays are perceived as involved in endless carefree carousing and partying. The gay perception has been exaggerated by the inner city renaissance in many cities that found gays rehabilitating real estate, making a good profit at doing so, but forcing higher rents or evictions on families who were usually poor and/or minorities.

When fear of the much-publicized AIDS (acquired immunity deficiency syndrome), sometimes called the "gay plague", is added to the economic resentment, it is not just pessimism that warns of a potentially sizeable antagonism towards the gay and lesbian community. Now is the time to be working and vigilant to prevent antagonism from being converted into discrimination and legislation.

The threat of destruction in a nuclear war has been addressed in the Paraclete in a number of issues. Increasing numbers of Christians of all persuasions are rising in righteous indignation to face squarely the threat of annihilation of millions of God's children and the despoiling of God's creation. Individuals can do little to combat this problem, but we can at least work together with other churches and

Metropolitan Community Church Of The Desert
Post Office Box 920
Thermal City, California 92234

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

HAVE I EVER?

By Stacy F. Age 12

Have you ever heard the birds sing??
Listen, you might hear them!
You'd understand them.

Have you ever heard the butterfly flap its wings?
Have you ever watched it, or even felt the wind blow by?
Hold still, you might!

Have you ever held anybody tight?
Have you ever said I LOVE YOU?
Try it, it makes you feel good, try it!

The love and feeling of if is the most wonderful part of life! And
every once in awhile say to yourself--
HAVE I EVER??
??

THOT: If you shoot arrows of envy at others,
you only wound yourself.

A NEW YEAR

The present year of hope and cheer
is quickly closing in;
The coming year with change and fear
will very soon begin.
With time so fast, can nothing last?
It seems that all must heed the call
and swiftly haste away!

But sure there stands, as God commands,
Within God's scared page, God's rule
and law-- without a flaw---
The same from age to age.
Then banish doubt with joyful shout,
for God is on the throne!
God cannot fail, God will prevail
for all who are God's own!
(Author unknown)

MCC of Long Beach Special!!

A benefit for the Excel program will be happening on Saturday December 6th from 7-10pm.
It will be a night of music for the whole family with refreshments. Admission is
" A love offering". Address: 785 Junipero
Long Beach. 213-434-1944

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #175
Palo Alto, Ca

GOOD NEWS!

GOOD NEWS IS A PUBLICATION OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE DESERT.
This publication is free to the public! Take one home and pass it on!!! Vol 1 Issue 2

LESBIAN MOTHER'S COME THROUGH IN VICTORY!!!!

By Reece Foxen
And the MOTHER'S won 8 to 6!!
The Lesbian Mother's Rap Group Family Day picnic turned out to be great fun for a lot of mother's who were dreading spending the day with the KIDS. We strove against great odds, with our best "player" MOTHER coaching and playing for the opposing team. But this and being out numbered, still was not enough to stack the deck against the MOTHER'S! Brilliant batting, catching, throwing and falling propelled the MOTHER'S team (composed of out of conditioned, over weight -- or under weight--- uncoordinated women with strong typing fingers) to Victory and first place!!

The cheering section was led by Julian (15 mos) from his playpen as he downed apple juice while flaunting his red hat and wet diaper.

We are all looking forward to returning to work next week with all the rewards of a game hard played--- sore muscles!

Check the calendar for next months' meeting and family day. For more information call 329-1181 or 329-2754!

#####

STAND UP AND TAKE NOTICE!!!!!!

NEW SERVICE TIME: 10:00AM SUNDAYS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: JANUARY 11th
after services. Set that time aside for the important meeting!
Ajenda--- Voting for new Board
Voting for new Delegate
Approval of new Budget 1981

MCC of the Desert is proud to welcome in three new members:
Janet, Danny and Reece!
Welcome and congratulations!!

STEWARDSHIP MONTH ENDS

The month of November saw an end to our Stewardship Drive. It was a time for all of us to take a look at what we are doing with all our talents and to start redirecting them to the Lord! Our church is a percentage giving church. That means that our members give a certain percentage to the furthering of God's kingdom on earth. This is personal covenant between the person and God. In the first few weeks of December, we will be giving out tithing cards to be returned in the offering baskets. If you do not have yours yet, then be sure to pick one up at the church. Remember you can give without loving but you can't love without giving.

Where your pleasure is,
there is your treasure;
Where your treasure is,
there is your heart;
Where your heart is,
there is your happiness!
--Augustine

IS THE WORLD FALLING APART?

There are many people who feel so! Earthquakes have rocked the total earth for the last year-- most of them being over 5 on the scales! Last year we had floods that we still are recovering from and fires are burning out of control all over the United States! People are starving in the third worlds, the Moral Majority is deciding their next move and celebrating their recent victory and more and more people are killing one another!

There is a prophecy about all this and more! The book of revelations tells of this story and what will be happening in the end of time!

Interested???? Join us for the study of " THE BOOK OF REVELATIONS " every Sunday at 9:00am in the Church before services!

CHRISTMAS PARTY COMING UP!

DIRECTIONS TO POT LUCK!!

Go to Little Morongo Rd. on the west side of DHS. You can take either Dillon or Pierson Blvd. If Dillon you will want to go north on Little Morongo Rd.--- If Pierson, you will want to go south on Little Morongo Rd.. Go to Kranshire Ave. Turn West (only way to turn). House is on your left side. The house is the only house on the street!
64-831 Kranshire! 329-1642

In the recent townhall meeting, it was decided that our worship services should be held at 10:00am on Sundays. So effective December 7, 1980 MCC of the Desert will hold services at 10:00am only. Come early to get a seat and join us in song and praise!! Other outcomes of the meeting:

- 1) Tithing of your time in coming to church can be very helpful to the whole family!
- 2) We are soliciting Ms. Karen Poston of the New York Opera House to do a performance for MCC of the Desert here in the Palm Springs area.
- 3) The rummage sale is off and running! Volunteers needed!
- 4) Socials and fund raisers need to be held to send our people to Houston, Texas for General Conference 1981!
- 5) It was suggested that we hold another raffle due to the success of the last!

If you weren't there you really missed a good meal and good fellowship!



SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
		1 6:30 pm B.O.D. Mtg 66-766 Buena Vista DHS	2 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	3 Power Group @ church	4	5
Adult 'Studies Book of Revelations" 10 am - Worship Service	6 CLASSES @	7 A.A. Mtg Church	8 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	9 Power Group @ church	10	11
	12 Leadership Church	13 A.A. Mtg Church	14 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	15 Power Group @ church	16	17
	18 RAP Group @ Santa Fe	19 A.A. Mtg Church	20 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	21 Power Group @ church	22	23
	24 CLASSES @	25 A.A. Mtg Church	26 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	27 Power Group @ church	28	29
	30 RAP Group @ Santa Fe	31 A.A. Mtg Church	1 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	2 Power Group @ church	3	4
	5 CLASSES @	6 A.A. Mtg Church	7 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	8 Power Group @ church	9	10
	11 CLASSES @	12 A.A. Mtg Church	13 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	14 Power Group @ church	15	16
	17 CLASSES @	18 A.A. Mtg Church	19 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	20 Power Group @ church	21	22
	23 CLASSES @	24 A.A. Mtg Church	25 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	26 Power Group @ church	27	28
	29 CLASSES @	30 A.A. Mtg Church	31 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	1 Power Group @ church	2	3
	3 CLASSES @	4 A.A. Mtg Church	5 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	6 Power Group @ church	7	8
	9 CLASSES @	10 A.A. Mtg Church	11 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	12 Power Group @ church	13	14
	15 CLASSES @	16 A.A. Mtg Church	17 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	18 Power Group @ church	19	20
	21 CLASSES @	22 A.A. Mtg Church	23 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	24 Power Group @ church	25	26
	27 CLASSES @	28 A.A. Mtg Church	29 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	30 Power Group @ church	31	1
	31 CLASSES @	1 A.A. Mtg Church	2 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	3 Power Group @ church	4	5
	3 CLASSES @	4 A.A. Mtg Church	5 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	6 Power Group @ church	7	8
	7 CLASSES @	8 A.A. Mtg Church	9 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	10 Power Group @ church	11	12
	11 CLASSES @	12 A.A. Mtg Church	13 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	14 Power Group @ church	15	16
	13 CLASSES @	14 A.A. Mtg Church	15 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	16 Power Group @ church	17	18
	15 CLASSES @	16 A.A. Mtg Church	17 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	18 Power Group @ church	19	20
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	21 CLASSES @	22 A.A. Mtg Church	23 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	24 Power Group @ church	25	26
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	25 CLASSES @	26 A.A. Mtg Church	27 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	28 Power Group @ church	29	30
	27 CLASSES @	28 A.A. Mtg Church	29 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	30 Power Group @ church	31	1
	29 CLASSES @	30 A.A. Mtg Church	1 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	2 Power Group @ church	3	4
	31 CLASSES @	1 A.A. Mtg Church	2 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	3 Power Group @ church	4	5
	3 CLASSES @	2 A.A. Mtg Church	3 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	4 Power Group @ church	5	6
	5 CLASSES @	4 A.A. Mtg Church	5 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	6 Power Group @ church	7	8
	7 CLASSES @	6 A.A. Mtg Church	7 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	8 Power Group @ church	9	10
	9 CLASSES @	8 A.A. Mtg Church	9 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	10 Power Group @ church	11	12
	11 CLASSES @	10 A.A. Mtg Church	11 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	12 Power Group @ church	13	14
	13 CLASSES @	12 A.A. Mtg Church	13 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	14 Power Group @ church	15	16
	15 CLASSES @	14 A.A. Mtg Church	15 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	16 Power Group @ church	17	18
	17 CLASSES @	16 A.A. Mtg Church	17 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	18 Power Group @ church	19	20
	19 CLASSES @	18 A.A. Mtg Church	19 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	20 Power Group @ church	21	22
	21 CLASSES @	20 A.A. Mtg Church	21 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	22 Power Group @ church	23	24
	23 CLASSES @	22 A.A. Mtg Church	23 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	24 Power Group @ church	25	26
	25 CLASSES @	24 A.A. Mtg Church	25 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	26 Power Group @ church	27	28
	27 CLASSES @	26 A.A. Mtg Church	27 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	28 Power Group @ church	29	30
	29 CLASSES @	28 A.A. Mtg Church	29 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	30 Power Group @ church	31	1
	31 CLASSES @	30 A.A. Mtg Church	1 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	2 Power Group @ church	3	4
	3 CLASSES @	1 A.A. Mtg Church	2 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	3 Power Group @ church	4	5
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	27 CLASSES @	24 A.A. Mtg Church	25 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	26 Power Group @ church	27	28
	29 CLASSES @	26 A.A. Mtg Church	27 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	28 Power Group @ church	29	30
	31 CLASSES @	28 A.A. Mtg Church	29 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	30 Power Group @ church	31	1
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	29 CLASSES @	27 A.A. Mtg Church	29 Lesbians mothers RAP Group	30 Power Group @ church	31	1
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By Reece Foxen

I'm excited seeing others, as well as myself, grow. Questions are answered and will continue being answered as we discuss: "Aging: How Old is Old?", "Being Alone At Holiday Time", "Parents: What are We To Do With Them?", and "Men and Women: Similarities and Differences."

For Christmas, December 22, we are each sharing a little of ourselves in "Let's Celebrate Christmas: Sharing Ourselves"!

For further information call: 329-1181
or 329-2754

[illegible]

OUR PAPER IS BUILT TO PLEASE ALL PEOPLE!
FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO LOOK FOR MISTAKES--
WE HAVE INCLUDED SOME IN THIS PAPER JUST
FOR YOU!!

.....

////////////////////////////////////

??????BRIDGE ANYONE??????

The D.O.D. Bridge Club is our own all-day bridge club and meets every Thursday at 7:15pm at the Palm Canyon Inn in Palm Springs. D.O.D. is an ACBL-sanctioned club and offers an opportunity to earn master points for those interested, but it is very definitely a club for players at all levels. Some of the members are just beginners and others are accomplished players, but everyone has fun.

Beginners and inexperienced players are especially welcomed with a special game held the last Sunday of each month only for the beginners. In addition a new group is now forming offering lessons for anyone interested in learning the game from scratch or just refreshing their memory.

A special Christmas party tournament will be held the weekend of December 12-14 at the Palm Canyon Inn with a free Champagne Brunch to all players.

For more information, call Stan DeGulis at 325-7665, or for information on the beginners lessons, call Lou Carver at 340-1589.

December is filled with Love and the expectations of a joyous holiday season. Some of us think of the parties we will go to or the parties we will give, some put their minds immediately to the thought of what to give as gifts, some think of the new beginning of a year that can hold so much expectation and excitement for them, and others think of family and friends.

Christnaas brings out many emotions and feelings that sometimes have long been hidden. It seems to be a time of year when we start cleaning house within ourselves and eliminating all the unnecessary negative, down-trodden thoughts that we unknowingly have accumulated during the past year. It is a time when we think of where we have been and where we are going.

Christmas is certainly strange in that it molds and makes us into greater persons for God! Although we are changing and growing, and we become occupied with the details of Christmas, one thing that Christians never throw-out or eliminate in themselves---- the real reason for Christmas--- the birth of our Savior, Jesus!

Take time during the Advent season and contemplate on the strangeness of Christmas:

- 1) Strange-- God coming in a little baby, born in a smelly cattle stall and then becoming the man to conquer sins for all of us--- for ever more through the cross.
 - 2) Strange-- Christ coming as a humble person and not the strong earthly king the Jews might have expected.
 - 3) Strange-- The way God used the weak things on earth to confound the mighty! The way our Savior was always able to confound his questioners, the scornors, the kings and others.
 - 4) Strange--- the way that we still celebrate Christmas as a time of renewal, of rejuvenation, of peace, of good will, of the ability to give to others beyond our normal realm.
 - 5) Strange--- That Christmas is the only celebration that no one says, "You've seen it once, you've seen it forever."
- This year, remember whose birthday we are celebrating and give gifts to that person. He is waiting for you to commit yourself to HIM!

Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Rev. Hendron
Pastor



Fremont Indemnity Company

JIFKE DRIESSEN

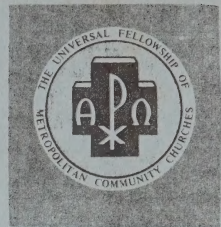
Secretary Buyer

The Fremont Building
1709 West Eighth Street • Los Angeles, California 90017
(213) 483-8731

PAT NUGENT
JIFKE DRIESSEN

227 - 0927

OPERATION RESURRECTION



WHAT IS IT?

The opportunity for all of us to get away and get our heads together - to work, dream, and play together!

WHO'S INVITED?

You are, of course, or you wouldn't be holding this invitation!! All members and friends of Metropolitan Community Church.

WHERE?

Up on Lake Jordan, naturally, at Terri and Fawn's. See Map. (569-3939)

WHEN?

It begins Saturday nite, March 27, 8:00 p.m.
for Food, Campfire, & Fellowship.
Or, if a sleeping bag doesn't appeal to you ---
come on Sunday at 8:00 a.m.
Right after lunch, we will come back to
Montgomery for church
After church, we will go up to Mark & Chuck's
for a big supper and celebration!!!

COST?

FREE!! We will help you with transportation.
We will help you with getting a
sleeping bag.
We ask you to help us by volunteering
to bring something to eat.

ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS SIGN UP AT CHURCH OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE -
264-7887
AND ARRANGE THE DETAILS OF WHAT YOU NEED.

There's going to be lots of sun, lots of fun, and lots of swell
feelings floating around. Come on up and get yours!

DIRECTIONS: Go North on I-65 to 2nd Prattville Exit. Go right onto State Hwy 14.
At junction of 14 & 143 (Elmore) take left onto 143.
Turn right onto County 23 - go to end. (Slapout). At caution light
Hwy 111, go right - At next caution light, go left on County 23, again
Pass church on right - Turn right at Cotton gin. At first house (brick
on right, turn into driveway. You're here.

"Can't miss it" - Famous last words.



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MCC Boston
131 Cambridge St.
Boston, Ma.
02114



Merry
& Christmas
Happy ⁰⁸
New Year! 

Gordon



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF AUSTIN

Rev. Joan Wakeford
Pastor

Rev. Louis de Spain
Associate Pastor

August 30, 1982

Dear Friend,

The congregation of MCC Austin is actively seeking a building of our own for worship services. In keeping with the community outreach policy of the Metropolitan Community Churches, we are seeking to purchase a property large enough to provide meeting space, and hopefully space for officing of other community organizations as well.

Our current Building Fund project, scheduled for the fall of this year, is to be an auction--one that we hope will become an annual event. Daphne Hamilton, an Austin-based professional auctioneer, whose credits include such successful fund rasiers as the U.T. Law School, has graciously donated her time and that of her staff, for the sale.

The auction itself, is scheduled for November 13, 1982, and will be held at Fiesta Gardens.

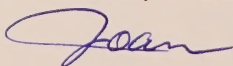
We need donations of time, services, and gifts suitable for auctioning from you or your orgainzation and friends. All donations are fully tax deductible and may be anonymously donated.

With regard to the donations for the sale, we have already received contributions of jewelry, original art, academic scholarships, weekends at resort conduminiums, gourmet dinners, pool cleaning services, and the like.

We are praying for your support in this project, which will benefit not only the MCCA itself, but also the community at large. If you can help us, please contact Reverend Joan Wakeford or Bill Tucker, Donations Chairperson; MCCA, P.O. Box 18960, Austin, 78760; or, telephone (512) 443-3332. We will return your call if you will leave a message. We would be more than happy to come and speak to your organization personally.

We look forward to your response and interest in this most important project. Thank you.

Sincerely in Christ's Love,



Rev. Joan Wakeford
Pastor

P.O. BOX 18960

Austin, Texas 78760

(512) 443-3332

The OUTREACH is published by MCC - Long Beach, a non-profit organization. While the OUTREACH attempts to maintain standards of Christian faith, fellowship, and community spirit as set by Jesus Christ and the UFMCC; the contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the UFMCC or of MCC - Long Beach.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA



Offices: 1041 E. 7th St., Long Beach
ph. 213- 599-1851

Sanctuary: 4139 Norseyway, Long Beach
(Carson & Lakewood)

Staff: Rev. Dusty Pruitt. Pastor

Bruce Brown.	Student Clergy
Rusty Carlson.	Student Clergy
Karen Gregg.	Student Clergy
Maggie Babb.	Deacon
Larry Fay.	Deacon
Terry Hilbert.	Deacon

Board of Directors

Fred Harvey
Matthew Howard
Sue Kirkland
Martí McAlary
Carole Mones
Jane Smith

WORSHIP SERVICES: Sundays 11:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. for healing services
only as shown on calendar

Our Offices are open Monday through Thursday - 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you need to talk, or make an appointment, please call. By the way, has anyone thought to call just to share a GOOD day? Our Pastor and Staff are there for the good news as well as the bad.

Contributions for the OUTREACH should be mailed, or hand delivered to the church offices. Author's names will be printed unless otherwise specified in writing upon receipt of the article. Our deadlines for articles are; typed - 3rd Saturday of each month prior to issue desired. Hand written; 2nd Saturday of each month prior to issue desired. ALL material submitted becomes the property of the OUTREACH.

WELCOME

JOIN US AS WE WORSHIP IN WORD AND SONG

MONTH M A Y 1983

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship service 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Mini Concert in the Park 7:30pm	2 Bible study "The Life of Christ" -Lin T. 6:30 p.m.	3 7:30 p.m. choir rehearsal	4 7:30 p.m. House church	5 7:30 p.m. Laity training classes - church offices	6 7:30 p.m. Bible study at Edna Williams	7 CONCERT IN THE PARK 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
8 Worship service 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. WE LUV YOU MOM'S	9 Bible study "The life of Christ" -Lin T. 6:30 p.m.	10 7:30 p.m. choir rehearsal	11 6:30 p.m. Potluck -Galley 7:30 Healing service	12 7:30 p.m. Laity training classes - church offices	13 7:30 p.m. Bible study at Edna Williams	14 Spaghetti Dinner -L.B. State.
15 Worship Service 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Microwave class 2 to 5 pm - Galley	16 Bible study The life of Christ 6:30 p.m. Lin T.	17 7:30 p.m.choir rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting -offices	18 7:30 p.m. House church	19 7:30 p.m. Laity training classes - offices	20 7:30 p.m. Bible study at Edna Williams DISTRICT	21 CONFERNCE
22 Worship service 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. DISTRICT CONFERENCE	23 Bible study The life of Christ - 6:30 p.m. Lin T.	24 7:30 p.m. choir rehearsal	25 7:30 p.m. House church	26 7:30 p.m. Laity training classes -offices	27 7:30 p.m. Bible study at Edna Williams	28
29 Worship services 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.	30 Bible study The life of Christ-6:30 p.m. Lin T.	31 7:30 p.m. choir rehearsal	CONCERT in the PARK			

in His hand
is the life of
every
living thing...

12th Chapter of Job



A LIVING PRAYER

I cannot say 'our' if I live in a water-tight spiritual compartment.

I cannot say 'Father' if I do not demonstrate the relationship in daily life.

I cannot say 'which art in heaven' if I am so occupied with the earth that I am laying up no treasure there.

I cannot say 'hallowed by thy name' if I, who am called by God's name, am not holy.

I cannot say 'thy kingdom come' if I am not doing all in my power to hasten its coming

I cannot say 'thy will be done' if I am questioning, resentful of, or disobedient to God's will for me.

I cannot say 'in earth, as it is in heaven' if I am not prepared to devote my life to God's service.

I cannot say 'give us this day our daily bread' if I am living on past experience or if I am an under-the-counter shopper.

I cannot say 'forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us' if I harbor a grudge against anyone.

I cannot say 'lead us not into temptation' if I deliberately place myself in a position to be tempted.

I cannot say 'deliver us from evil' if I am not prepared to fight it in the spiritual realm with the weapon of prayer.

I cannot say 'thine is the kingdom' if I do not accord the Lord the disciplined obedience of a loyal subject.

I cannot say 'thine is the power' if I fear what people may do or what my neighbors may think.

I cannot say 'thine is the glory' if I am seeking glory for myself.

I cannot say 'forever' if my horizon is bounded by the things of time.

from the Christian Messenger
author not known

MOST GLADLY WILL I GLORY IN MY INFIRMITIES. (II Corinthians 12:9)

Three people were walking on a wall,
Feeling, Faith, and Fact.
When Feeling got an awful fall,
and Faith was taken back.
So close was Faith to Feeling,
Feeling stumbled and fell too,
but Fact remained,
and pulled Faith back,
and Faith brought Feeling too.

- from "THE MIRACLE HAND AROUND THE WORLD"

"HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE"

I was walking down life's highway
a long time ago.
One day I saw a sign that read:
"Heaven's Grocery Store."

As I got a little closer, the
door came open wide.
And when I came to myself, I was
standing inside.

I saw a host of ANGELS, they were
standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said:
"My child; shop with care."

Everything a Christian needs is in the
grocery store.
All you can't carry, you can come back
the next day for more.

First I got some Patience, Love was in
the same row.
Further down was Understanding, you
need that where ever you go.

I got a box or two of Wisdom, a bag
or two of Faith.
I just couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST,
for it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some Strength and
Courage to help me run this race.
By then, my basket was getting full,
but I remembered I needed some Grace.

I didn't forget Salvation. For Salvation
that was free.
So I tried to get enough of that to
save both you and me.

Then I started up to the counter to
pay my grocery bill.
For I thought I had everything, to
do MY MASTER'S WILL.

As I went up the aisle, I saw a Prayer,
and I just had to put that in.
For I knew when I stepped outside, I
would run right into SIN.

Peace and Joy were plentiful, they
were the last on the shelf.
Long and Praise were hanging near, so
I just helped myself.

When I said to the "ANGEL": "Now how
much so I owe?"
He just smiled and said; "Just take
them where ever you go."

Again I smiled at him and said: "How
much do I really owe?"
He smiled again and said: "My child,

JESUS PAID YOUR BILL, A LONG TIME AGO."

Who is generally credited with writing
the first five books of the Bible?

(check your answer in next issue)

WOULD YOU ?

Here are some areas of the
"Ministry of Helps" that we
have, but not everyone knows
what they involve. Since the
unknown is always fearful,
lets look at what they are and
learn so we can "help" each
other serve the Lord.

- Acolyte -

From the Greek, meaning an
attendant or one who assists.
An office found in sacramental
churches and is usually filled
by young people.

An Acolytes main purpose in
ministry is to assist the clergy
and people with preparations for
worship and the receiving of
Communion.

The qualities that should be
present are; desire and the
ability to be dependable.

Scripture reference;
"Serve the Lord with gladness.
Ps. 100:2

- Usher -

They are the first to see
worshippers on Sunday morning.
Their attitude sets the general
feeling about what the experience
will be.

They distribute the bulletins,
adjust the thermostat so every
one is comfortable, collect the
offering, direct traffic and
monitor bottlenecks during
communion, and get to clean up
the sanctuary after service.

They also see those who have a
need before anyone else, and
they usually are the ones who
either direct those people to
help, or they do the ministering
right then.

Scriptural reference;
"I had rather be a doorkeeper
in the house of my God than to
dwell in the tents of wickedness."
....Ps. 84:10

There are others we will look
at in other issues. Keep your
thinking caps on and see where
"Your" ministry is.

IN AND AROUND AND THROUGH OUR CONGREGATION

IN THIS SERIES OF ARTICLES OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, WE WILL BE PRESENTING SOME OF THE FACETS OF M.C.C. LONG BEACH -- THE PEOPLE AND THE MANY MINISTRIES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO OUR LIVING BODY OF CHRIST. THESE WILL INCLUDE THE CLERGY, THE POWERFUL MUSIC MINISTRY, SPECIAL EVENTS, OUTREACH, INDIVIDUAL WITNESS AND DEMONSTRATION OF SHARING LOVE, AND WILL, MOST OF ALL BE ABOUT PEOPLE WHO ARE OUR FAMILY.

BY OFFERING A BEGINNING TO THIS SERIES, WE HOPE ANY AND ALL WHO WOULD CARE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS COLUMN WOULD FEEL FREE TO DO SO. PRAISE THE LORD: WE ARE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE AND TOGETHER WE DO MARVELOUS THINGS FOR THE SAKE OF LOVE.

(Jack Bentley & Jon Jackson)

DEACONS

The office of Deacon is set forth in Acts 6:2-6 and I Timothy 3:8-14. At M.C.C. Long Beach, our Deacons assist the Pastor in serving communion, reading scripture, counseling, administration, communication with members of the congregation and many other duties. We have, currently, three Deacons, Maggie Babbs, Terry Hilbert and Larry Fay.

Since we are limited in space, we interviewed only one of the deacons, Larry Fay. Here are excerpts from that interview, reflecting something about the affect his service has had on his life.

Larry Fay has studied as a candidate for over a year, beginning in February, 1982. At the March, 1983, meeting of the Board of Directors, Larry was affirmed a Deacon in our church.

"I believe the study during the past year has helped me learn more about myself and about God. It has helped me become more open with people," he said.

Larry admitted that when he first began his studies, there were some conflicts between his ego and his motivation to serve the community. These have been resolved, he says, through prayer and being open and honest with his family and friends. "I had to come to grips with my sexuality where my family was concerned." He found that his family didn't reject him, but continued to love and care for him, support him and his honesty opened communications with his family. "Love is very strong and there are no divisions in my family."

Larry feels that the discipline of study has been a great help to him. He has learned that when he ministers to people, those people, in turn, minister to him. He always thought he was a good listener, but now finds that he can hear more clearly what is being said.

He discussed the many options available and explained that he finally determined that the Deaconate was the best way for him to seek out in himself the discipline required for the ministry. "I had really been thinking about exploring the direction to become a minister for some time before entering the Deaconate. I think serving as a Deacon will affirm me, open me up to go further."

In asking Larry what suggestions he might have for people who have considered entering the Deaconate, but have not yet committed themselves, he replied, "First, pray! Then, read the Scriptures outlining what serving as a Deacon means. Be willing to serve the congregation and realize that we are servants of the Lord; lay ministers, not clergy. Help the clergy meet the needs of people. It is a position which serves, and if there is a desire to serve, the Deaconate is one of the best ways I know to put that desire into practice."

There is no doubt of Larry's commitment and dedication. When one talks with him, a bright glow comes to his eyes, a smile to his face and the warmth he feels comes through in a most remarkable way.

"I like what I'm doing. I feel sometimes that my expectations are greater than what I can accomplish, but I've learned the important thing; that God is in us all and works through each of us."

HUMBLE-MILITY

I AM SOMEBODY! I AM SET FREE! I AM SOMEBODY! JESUS CHRIST ALIVE IN ME!

Who, me? A SOMEBODY? Oh, gosh. Oh, golly! Oh, GEE! (Bow your head, scrape the toe of your shoe in the dirt and look embarrassed) Not me, oh, no! (Wring hands together) I'm a sinner! Why, that wouldn't be HUMBLE!

Week after week we share the blessing of praying together as a family for the needs of our family. (It's a time in the service that is a special blessing for me, for prayer shared is prayer and power magnified.)

And week after week we socialize with this same family before and after service. Naturally, the most common questions are "How are you doing?" and "Whats been happening?"

Surprisingly enough, these two seemingly unrelated times share a powerful common bond: both are a time when we can share with each other the things that have occurred in our lives. Both are times when we can relate to someone else and express ourselves about our lives, our concerns and our experiences.

But have you noticed? Although the ratio is improving, there are still about four or five concerns or problems named for every praise that we share! And I think that for some of us the reason is Humble-mility.

(What the heck is 'Humble-mility' Mable?)

Humble-mility is NOT an overdose of humility, contrary to appearances! Humble-mility is an overdose of the I-am-not-worthy, my-problems-aren't-important-enough, I-don't-want-to-bother-anyone-with-this, it's-only-just-little-me reactions.

Well, my friends, we still got trouble, right here in River City - but this time it ain't 'pool' but 'poor'. Poor Me! Poor Me humility! And as long as you've read this far, please read a little farther, because I would like to remind you of a couple of things I think are important and that have helped me.

You live. You breathe. You think, you consider, you chose. You ARE. God thought enough of you to create you and include you in His world and in His plan. Be proud - not pride of self and conceit, but proud that you are a part of the Body of Christ, a Child of the King and the Kingdom!

True humility is understanding who you are in a positive way and getting on with the job of making a contribution. It would be hard to conceive of Jesus, the perfect example of humility, standing on the Mount of Olives before the people and saying: "I feel very inadequate as I stand before you today. I am the resurrection and the Life."

Being thankful for who we are and the talents and abilities we have been given and getting on with improving our potential is closer to humility than declaring our inadequacies. To go around dimming our light under a bushel is contrary to the positive of "letting your light so shine that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven."

You ARE a SOMEBODY! You are a Child of God! Be proud, stand tall, lift your head and your heart and your soul up - up to the glory of God. Keep sharing the concerns and problems, but share more of the praises for what our Father has done. God thought enough of you to create you. God thought enough of you to die for you! Share that Love!

PASTOR PONDER'S

PRAISE THE LORD !!! WE HAVE A NEW BUILDING ! It does look like our trek through the wilderness is over, and that we are about to build the tabernacle so that we may have a habitat for the Lord. I'm not sure that I would call this the promised land. However - I believe that the promised land will be a little clearer after you read all of this article.

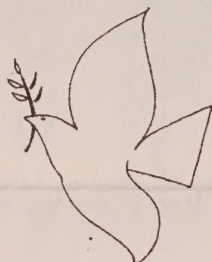
Last Saturday the Board of Directors and I prayed for the Lord's guidance in the party room of my home, and then did a little of what I call "Dreams, Visions, and Realities" for MCC-Long Beach. The results of those dreams are charted for you here:

LONG TERM GOALS:

<u>Five years</u>	<u>Ten years</u>	<u>Twenty years</u>
1. Buy property to build facilities	1. Build 1000 seat mission style facility with gardens	1. Same facility
2. Present facility earthquake proofed/paid off	2. Sell present facility	2. TV studio
3. Add minister of Pastoral care	3. Add treasurer	3. Electronic TV church/tithing
	4. Office manager	4. Producer
		5. Cameraperson
		6. Technician

MEMBERSHIP INCREASE:

Year	1983	80 people	1988	100 people
	1984	80 " "	1989	100 " "
	1985	80 " "	1990	100 " "
	1986	100 " "	1991	100 " "
	1987	100 " "	1992	100 " "



As you can see, we believe the Lord has given us a real plan with real workable goals for the next twenty years.

We want to build a facility that can seat 1,000 people that has a mission style plan with gardens and fountains. Human beings were not created to live in concrete, they were created to live in a garden. So we want to create a garden style atmosphere and a peaceful atmosphere so that people who set foot on the property think "surely the Spirit of the Lord is in this place." We want a place which can afford a haven from the hustle and bustle of the city. We want a retreat type atmosphere, truly a little piece of heaven on earth.

This is why although we need the building we're buying now, God is providing us "40 days worth of food for just a little money". We needn't get too attached to this building. In ten years we should have completed our new building, the replica of the Spanish mission, (or Spanish style church) which is set in the garden atmosphere.

I praise the Lord for all He is doing in Long Beach, and for putting dreams and visions in our hearts, and for communicating to us the size church He wants in Long Beach. There are many things a large church can do that a small one cannot, and there are many things a small one can do that a large one cannot. Praise the Lord there is a use in the Kingdom for both kinds. For us, the Lord wants the ministry of a large church!

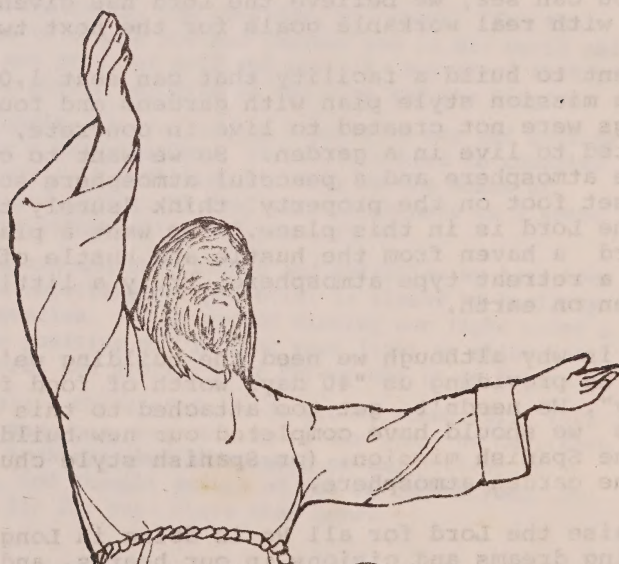
More next month on large and small differences.

Dusty

131 Cambridge St
Boston, MA 02114

McC Boston

MCC LONG BEACH
1041 E. 74th St.
Long Beach, CA
90813



OUTREACH

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH of LONG BEACH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A hearty welcome to those who visit with us today. We hope the service is a blessing to you and that you will come back to be with us again soon. Please join us for the fellowship hour following the Worship Service in order that we may meet and greet you.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY--Wednesday 8:00 P.M. Theme for the week is the Ruth and Naomi story. 145 East 15th Street Apt 7B

GAY PRIDE SUNDAY--We will be marching from Columbus Circle down Fifth Avenue. Look for our banner as we assemble between West 64th and 65th Streets on Central Park West--11:30 A.M. I trust you will cooperate with us as we try to provide a place for out of town guests to refresh and prepare to join us in our special Worship Service with Rev. George McDermott as our guest preacher. The Church will be open at 4:30 P.M. We hope to provide some food and beverage. Please lend a hand that we may be able to show our Christian hospitality to all our guests. Be sure to invite your friends to join us as we move to the sanctuary for our celebration of our liberty in Christ Jesus.

Make note of the new mailing address for Trinity MCC--P. O. Box 6163 FDR Station New York, N. Y. 10150. Phone: (212) 274-2374

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING next Sunday.... We need to elect a member of the board to replace Lupe Martinez, who resigned at our last meeting. Immediately following this election the board will meet for the monthly business session. All are encouraged to participate.

Our prayers and condolences go out to Rev. Dee Jackson and her family in the untimely and accidental death of Erica this week. Messages may be mailed to her at 614 South First Street #327 Austin, TX 78704. Also for Mrs. Alma Davis, grandmother and Derek Jackson, brother. 12-50 35th Avenue #2B Long Island City, N. Y. 11106.

Trinity

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
New York City

Sunday, June 19, 1983

*Please Stand

--ORDER OF WORSHIP--

WE ENTER FROM THE WORLD

The Prelude

*Singspiration: Count Your Blessings 89
Love Lifted Me 400

The Welcome and Announcements

Time of Meditation: Preperation for Worship

WE PRAISE GOD AND PROCLAIM THE WORD

*Hymn: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name 10

The Epistle Reading: Romans 1:18-2:1

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--God's eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that everyone is without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified God as God nor gave thanks to God, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal images and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore, God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. The exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is for-

ever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to their shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed, and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, god-haters, insolent, arrogant, and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these things but also approve of those who practice them. You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment to the same things.

*The Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:34-40

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested Him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

*Gloria: "Glory be to the Lord God, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.

*Hymn: The Solid Rock

92

Sermon: God Gave Them Up

Bill Smith

WE SHARE COMMUNION WITH GOD

The Prayers of the People

The Greeting of Peace

The Tithes and Offerings

*Doxology: We give Thee but Thine own,
What e're the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen.

*Hymn: I am Thine, O Lord

63

Time for confession and Forgiveness

Holy Communion at MCC is open to
all believers in Christ, regardless
of their church affiliation.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is God who has made us and not we
ourselves. We are the sheep of God's pasture.
Therefore, it is right to give our Shepherd
thanks and praise.

Leader: Therefore we join our voices with
angels and archangels and all the company of
Heaven, evermore praising You and saying:

Together: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD OF POWER
AND MIGHT. Heaven and earth are full of Your
glory. Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is
the One who comes in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the Highest.

Leader: (Words of Institution) So let us
proclaim the mystery of our Faith:

Together: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ shall come again!

The Serving of the Lord's Supper

WE DEPART TO THE WORLD TO SERVE

*The Blessing

*The Benediction

*Hymn: Do You Really Care?

Bulletin

Boston, MA 02114

Prosperity Consciousness

Jill Nelson tells us how she has run these prompt legal letters four times in the last year. The first time she got \$10,000 and the other times around \$7,000. If this letter continues as it should, everyone profits. Let me tell you the story and the details. Follow them and in about ten days you will be \$10,000 richer.

This letter will pay \$10,000 because there are only four names on the list at one time. Three moves and you are in the position to receive \$1.00 from each participant. This promotional letter was started by Jill Nelson of Nashville, Tennessee for the purpose of acquiring investment capital. Now that has been expanded.

Send \$1.00, wrapped in a blank sheet of paper, to the first person only on the list below. Then omit that name from your list. Add your name in the fourth position and move the other names and addresses up one position on the list. Send the letters bearing your name to ten prospects.

Mail your letters within 48 hours and DO NOT BREAK THE CYCLE, PLEASE. When your name reaches the first position, it will be your turn to collect the fees. They should be sent to you by 10,000 people like yourself. PLEASE DO NOT BREAK THE CYCLE. It can and does work. Your entire investment is only \$1.00 plus postage. If the cycle is not broken, there is no way it cannot work. Be sure to copy this letter entirely. Omit none of it.

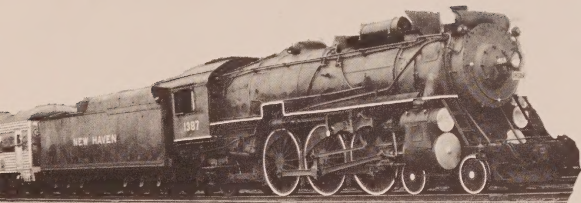
Please report results to Imperial Sales Company, 3095 Ivey Way, Knoxville, TN, 37941. Let us know when you sent your fee and how much was received within 9 days. We are, at this time, receiving almost 100% return to the people carrying on this promotional letter. The majority receive \$7,000.

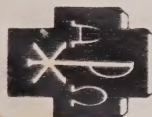
The promotional letter you send out should have four names on it. Your name should be in the fourth position and the other names moved up one place. The person you send the fee to will no longer appear on the list.

Send the letters to people you know personally and consider DOERS. Also, try to send to various locations around the country. Send to those to whom you would grant prosperity. (10x10x10x10-10,000) THIS IS NOT ILLEGAL. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE RETURN THIS LETTER TO THE #4 ADDRESS. DO NOT OMIT ANY OF THIS LETTER. MAIL WITHIN 48 HOURS, PLEASE.

1. Kit McKeraghan, 3748 River Drive, Lilburn, GA 30247
2. Rich Kuhn, 308 Chandler Avenue, Roselle, NJ 07203
3. Barbara Fahrion, 40-42 West 26th St., Bayonne, NJ 07002
4. Warren L. Smith, P.O. Box 1366, Bayonne, NJ 07002

WARREN L. SMITH
P.O. BOX 1366
BAYONNE, N. J. 07002-6366





Valley Paraclete
5730 Cahuenga Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA 91601

MCC BOSTON
131 CAMBRIDGE ST.
BOSTON, MA 02114

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MAY 1983



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METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH IN THE VALLEY, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA.
Reverend Kenneth T. Martin, Pastor 91601

EVANGELISM THROUGH INVOLVEMENT



The Church was essentially called to "Go...and make disciples" or to "make known the wisdom of God", or to "preach the message unto all the world". How should the Church best follow this mandate? The gospel itself should be used as a standard, to construct a biblical model of evangelism. One all important factor of the gospel is the incarnation of Jesus the Christ. The incarnation is the fact that God, through Jesus, entered fully into our humanity and became identified with our lost condition.

Incarnational evangelism would then be the process of entering into the struggle of individual lives and social institutions--incarnating God's salvation in the context of real human needs. It might be said that we have been sent to intertwine our lives with the lives and concerns of a struggling world. This is in contrast to a canned presentation of the gospel to strangers. One must know people and care for their needs before one earns the right to present the gospel as a remedy to their life problems.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the poor traveler who lay stripped and robbed on the roadside did not at that moment need a sermon or an invitation to church. He needed his wounds cared for and shelter. Thus Jesus' model teaches that God's grace is revealed when we show compassion for our fellow brothers and sisters. Martin Luther observed that we become fellow prisoners with the lost so they may be free, companions of the fallen so they may stand up and walk. The gospel can't be shouted from a distance!

The human predicament is more than individual; it is woven into the patterns, institutions and structures of human society. The world God loved is the whole world, with all its political, economic and cultural dimensions. Incarnational evangelism must concern itself with structural as well as individual evil. The classic example was the abolitionist movement of the 19th century. Many Christians felt that the misery of four million human beings required them to engage in such illegal

activities as establishing schools for black children and conducting run-away slaves across the Canadian border. Christians of many denominations formed the "underground railroad" and were in effect a network of activists dedicated to the cause of human liberty. They entered into solidarity with the oppressed. They realized that the medium must agree with the message. True evangelism, whether addressed to individuals or social institutions, is incarnational. The story we tell, and the telling of the story, while not identical, are nevertheless inseparably connected. BGS

IRELAND MAY BE GREEN BUT IT SURE HAS SOMETHING AGAINST LAVENDER

Dublin, Ireland (UPI) The Supreme Court on Friday upheld the constitutionality of a law making homosexual acts a crime even when they take place in private. The court, by a 3-2 vote, dismissed an appeal by David Norris, an executive member of the Gay Federation, challenging legislation that makes homosexual acts between consenting adults a criminal offense.

MCC/VALLEY ADOPTS MCC/JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI AS SISTER CHURCH

A small group has decided to begin worshipping in Jackson, Mississippi as part of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. When such news got out in that community, the leader of the Mississippi Moral Majority immediately made a large statewide mailing to its membership. The Moral Majority letter appealed for funds to mount a media campaign to warn those in the "Christian state of Mississippi" of such an evil in their midst. It was not made clear how any group could be prevented from worshipping as they choose. The local Jackson newspaper carried an article alluding to that Constitutional question. When Rev. Martin talked to the writer by phone, the man stated that he was fearful of losing his job for the stand he took. Rev. Martin subsequently gave a two hour phone interview to the newspaper that explained his growing up in Raymond, Miss., his conversion there at a young age, his work and ministry in the Baptist churches, and his recognition of his sexual orientation. He also told the state of Mississippi about our church here in the San Fernando Valley.

Rev. Martin understands from subsequent conversations that the article was not well received in that state. Callers from Raymond stated that no such person ever lived or grew up in that small town.

The Board of Directors of our church, in recognition of our special circumstance now attaching ourselves to our brothers and sisters in that distant city, have unanimously voted to declare ourselves a sister church to them. Further action and information on the Jackson group will be published as it occurs.

JAIL MINISTRY

Spanish speaking aides from our church are now assisting the deacons in the L.A. county jail services. Funds for bibles have been voted by the Board. A bulletin suitable for their services is being designed.

MAY

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

- SUNDAY Worship Services at 9 & 11 AM (11 AM service is signed)
- MONDAY AT (Alcoholics Together) Men's Stag 8:30 PM
- WEDNESDAY Senior Gay & Lesbian's Meeting 2 PM
MCCV Choir Practice 7:30 PM
Sign Language Class 7:30 PM
- THURSDAY Personal Growth Discussion Group 7:30 PM
A different subject discussed weekly in this open group.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

- May 9 Monday, Board of Directors
- May 23 Monday DUO and Christian Social Action Committees

SPECIAL EVENTS IN MAY

- FRIDAY NITE MAY 6 A SPRING DANCE--ANNIVERSARY WALTZ 8:30 PM
DOOR DONATION \$2 WEAR YOUR SPRING GARDEN!
- SUNDAY MAY 15 NEW MEMBERS INDUCTION INTO THE CHURCH AT 11 AM SERVICE
DELEGATE'S BRUNCH FOLLOWING SERVICE (ABOUT 1 PM)
- MAY 20, 21, 22 SOUTHWEST DISTRICT CONFERENCE
BEACH CITIES MCC/SANTA MONICA SEE DELEGATES FOR INFO
IF YOU CAN ACCOMODATE ANYONE OVERNITE, SIGN UP IN FOKER.

IMPORTANT EVENTS COMING UP IN JUNE

- JUNE 5 SUNDAY SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (DETAILS LATER)
- JUNE 6 MONDAY DANCE AT THE STARLIGHT BALLROOM 6 PM till MIDNITE
LIVE BAND! LOTS OF BIG BAND MUSIC! DONATION \$2
SPONSORED BY PROJECT RAINBOW--SENIOR GAY & LESBIAN
CITIZENS. SEE MEMBERS FOR TICKETS.
- JUNE 11 SATURDAY GIGASTIC SWAP MEET IN PARKING LOT! RENT YOUR OWN
BOOTH AND SELL ANYTHING LEGAL!
SEE YOUR
DELEGATES OR NEXT MONTHS PARACLETE FOR MORE INFO.

Anniversary Waltz

SPRING DANCE: FRIDAY NIGHT, MAY 6 8:30 PM
DOOR PRIZES: DANCING: GOOD MUSIC: \$2 DONATION
MUSIC BY CHUCK WHITE: WEAR YOUR SPRING GARDEN:

You are also invited to the decorating parties: Thursday May 5 at 7:30 and Friday May 6 at 11 AM. Tom Puckett, your genial Social Director, runs a FUN decorating party (rumor hazit)!

HERE-----AND-----THERE

Best wishes and prayers for: Betty Shutes who has a leg in a cast (probably a skiing accident) and for Lois Wilson undergoing surgery soon.. Dondolences to Ray who recently lost his mother....Over 100 attended our Easter Picnic at North Hollywood Park....Approximately 270 attended Easter Services at MCCV....50 shares of 3M stock were voted sold by the Board--proceeds for Building Fund....Sanctuary remodeling progressing. A new heating and air conditioning system is also being installed during this work!Ruby Grammer will serve another 1 year term as Student Clergy at MCCV....Pete Taylor will co-facilitate the Rap Group for six months.... The church has been given a Gulbrandsen Organ....The Board voted \$100 from DUO funds for purchase of bibles in Spanish for Prison Ministry, and also \$50 for UFMCC materials in Spanish...A church retreat will be held at Camp Griffo Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25...CSW Committee has sign up sheets in foyer for: Float Decorating, Food Booth, Information Booth, and Fair Child Care Booth that all need staffing. The church is given \$650 by the CSW organization for staffing their child care booth at the fair....Raffle tickets on sale at \$1 each to aid the church in buying ten (10) tickets at \$100 each to the large Aids benefit auction being held by the L.A. Tavern Guild..... The Red Cross will not hold the blood drive at the June Swap Meet as earlier announced. They have been ordered not to collect blood from high risk groups, which apparently is us.....The choir under Leroy's fine directing has been producing some spectacular Sunday morning music. Keep up the good work. What a great blessing this group has been for our worship services....



community. Everyone's usual fine cooperation will certainly be appreciated. In the struggle to find a cause and a cure for AIDS, and to provide some assistance to those stricken, we've everything to gain. We're now losing, on the human level, but are gaining some knowledge, though slowly.

MCC/VALLEY TENTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Almost 170 gathered at the church last month to celebrate the birth of the Valley church ten years earlier. A superb and beautiful buffet was catered by the Touch of Class restaurant. Honored guests included almost half of our Charter Members (plus Don Shaw who joined a week later). Rev. Randy Cypher flew down from the City for the occasion (on a fan jet). Dr. Norman Pittinger of Cambridge University was guest speaker. He shared some of the quandry of being both Christian and gay, with the conclusion that our highest calling is just caring for each other and for others. Orchids to all those who worked so hard to make this event a success.

REV. RICHARD "DICK" HETZ, DEAD AT 62...FOUL PLAY

Former worship coordinator of MCC/Valley, Rev. Dick Hetz, was found murdered at his home in Silver Lake after the home has been set afire by a robber. Due to a large amount of smoke the fire was quickly put out, and the body was not burned. The assailant was later captured by police, since the car was also stolen and later spotted.

Rev. Hetz had been very active in the last few years with the congregation at West Hollywood Presbyterian church. Dick was truly loved by all who knew him. He was a quiet, unassuming man who never had a harsh word for anyone. May Rev. Dick rest in peace.

AIDS FUNDRAISER!

\$100 First Prize Tickets \$1

In an effort to donate \$1,000 to the Tavern Guild's Aid Benefit, MCCV has taken the following action. Christian Social Action has donated \$100 raffle prize, with a goal of 500 tickets sold. DUO will then match funds with a \$500 appropriation to this drive for critical funds so important to our

The DUO Committee, which is open to membership participation, recently made a number of well thought out recommendations for funding, which were subsequently approved by the Board of Directors.

Rather than single out specific programs within the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, the committee recommended that one donation be made to their general funding drive. GLCSC now has a full time staff of 45 persons and 250 volunteer workers. It provides help to 6,000 clients per month. \$1,000 was donated to the center.

The San Fernando Valley Food Bank has been incorporated to coordinate and maximize the efforts of some 50 churches and non-profit agencies in the valley that provide emergency food and housing. Food requests are running three to five times greater than earlier years. One such food pantry, the Jewish Valley Storefront, feeds 125 people daily and provides 150 bags of food each Friday. People are still turned away. A \$750 donation was made to this organization to be presented by Rev. Martin at its regular meeting.

The World Church Extension outreach of the Fellowship is making an effort to translate sorely needed literature into other languages to fill requests from around the world. DUO has made a \$500 donation for translation purposes to WCE.

The Alcoholism Center for Women operates a recovery house and outpatient facility. The agency is run by women the majority of whom are lesbians, and has faced reductions in government funding recently. a \$250 donation was made to this comprehensive treatment program.

The New Freedom Evangelistic Team travels around the country in a "bus" to churches within the Fellowship that invite them. These gospel-style evangelists have been heard by many in our congregation. \$200 was allocated to the Team to aid in paying for their bus.

For those unfamiliar with our DUO fund: the church takes a "tithe" from the money it receives in offerings and places it in DUO to help take care of brothers and sisters in need. The church has found that it is wiser to donate funds to agencies that have professional staff in place than to create "social work committees" within our own church. Community organizations, other MCCs, etc. are also recipients of funding. Donations within 1982 include: Atlanta and Baltimore MCCs (both experienced fires), Church of the Oaks, Thousand Oaks, Feminist Women's Health Center, GLCSC (men's clinic and general operation), Hudson House, Lambda Resource Center for the Blind, Meals to the Homebound (Valley Interfaith Council), Modesto MCC for hymnals, National Gay Archives, National Peace Academy, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Prison Ministry of UFMCC, Simon Wiesenthal Center, Project Rainbow (Society of Gay and Lesbian Senior Citizens), Southwest District (UFMCC), and World Extension (UFMCC). We are indebted to the hard work of DUO and its chair, Larry Mobbs. Thanks!

AIDS

UPDATE

Since the Paraclete last published an article about AIDS, the disease syndrome has gained nationwide media attention, more have been stricken with AIDS, and the community has taken action on different fronts to raise funds and awareness. Five new cases of AIDS are being reported daily to the Federal Centers for Disease Control. More than half the 1,300 stricken Americans have been diagnosed in the last year. The death toll is now about 500. Fewer than 14% of AIDS victims have survived more than three years and no one yet has fully recovered.

Gay men account for about 72% of the cases. AIDS first struck what the media has called "fast-lane" gays, since many of the early victims had more than 1,00 different sex partners, were frequent users of recreational drugs and had long histories of sexually transmitted diseases. AIDS has now spread to the more conservative and even monogamous men. Other groups who are victims include intravenous drug users, Haitians, and hemophiliacs.

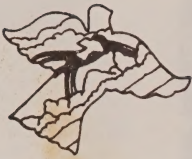
The syndrome is difficult to diagnose because its early symptoms often mimic those of less serious disease: persistent fatigue, fever, diarrhea, night sweats and swollen lymph glands in the neck, armpits, and groin, as well as a string of recurring virus infections such as colds, flu, herpes simplex and shingles.

Research money has been hard to pry loose in difficult economic times while the government has been slashing domestic funding. Senators from New York and California have joined sponsors of a bill to free \$40 million in AIDS research funds. National gay lobbying groups have been especially helpful in gaining political support for such measures.

The AIDS Project/Los Angeles has grown to help the local community face this crisis. The Project Hotline is now staffed by over 60 volunteers, trained to answer questions about AIDS and when necessary to refer callers to physicians or clinics. The Project is operated by salaried and volunteer staff, and has become the central clearinghouse in Southern California for AIDS information. The AIDS Project is located at 937 N. Cole #3, Hollywood 90038 and the Hotline number is 871-AIDS, Monday-Friday, 9-9.

The community should in times like this be cautious of rumors, give aid and support to those organizations helping the AIDS victim or those national organizations who have been applying political pressure to gain research funds. Stones must not be cast at any segment of the community. In the first place, Christians are called upon to aid and comfort anyone struck by misfortune. Note that the Good Samaritan did not give the beaten traveler by the road's edge a sermon, but offered the stranger assistance. In the second place, no one is yet sure how the disease started, how it is spread, what can prevent it or cure it. It's time to hang together!

BGS



church of the holy spirit

1127 S.W. 2nd Court, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312 • Telephone (305) 462-2004

Reverend John W. Gill, Pastor

May 11, 1983

TO: Metropolitan Community Church Study Groups, Missions, and Churches

FROM: Reverend John W. Gill, Pastor of M.C.C. Fort Lauderdale, Florida

RE: Letter of Testimony for Richard LaPorte

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Mr. Richard LaPorte. Richard is a good friend of M.C.C. here in Fort Lauderdale. A year ago he told me that he would be able to get some jewelry items for us - items that contained the Alpha-Omega Chi-Rho insignia. Like most of you I have been disappointed and frustrated in getting M.C.C. crosses etc. that were of a high quality and did not take three months to be delivered.

Richard has been the answer to this problem that has beset all of us at one time or another. He has been most accurate in taking all orders that we have placed with him and we have received the goods within a couple of weeks of ordering. The one time there was some trouble in filling an order Richard got in touch with me immediately and kept in touch until the shipment was received.

I am sure that you will be pleased with the quality, price, and speedy delivery of all items ordered through Mr. LaPorte. If you have any question regarding this matter please feel free to give me a call or drop a line.

For those of you who have ordered through Richard already, on his behalf let me express thanks, and may you continue to avail yourself of his services!

With love, yours in Christ,

John W. Gill

Reverend John W. Gill, Pastor
M.C.C. Fort Lauderdale

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Rick LaPorte

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OVER PLEASE

*God Bless you
and your projects.
God be with you.*

May we send you a
sample package of Chi-Rho Crown?

God be with you.

Rick LaPorte

Symbolic Necklaces

Popular Priced

All necklaces on this page are in deluxe gift boxes as illustrated and sold individually. All necklaces are on 24" chains unless otherwise indicated. All items actual size.

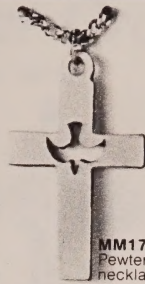
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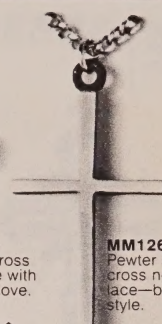
MM69
Pewter cross necklace with cut-out dove.

5.00



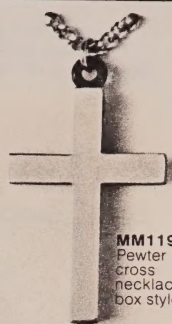
MM170
Pewter cross necklace with cut-out dove.

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MM126
Pewter slim cross necklace—box style.

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MM119
Pewter cross necklace—box style.

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MM123

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MM121

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MM122

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MM144

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MM151

Pewter fish necklace with cut-out cross.

5.00



MM161

Pewter cross necklace with fish and dove.

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MM140

Pewter eternity cross necklace.

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Symbolic necklaces in bright silver finish.



MM130

Trinity charm on 24" chain.

8.00



MM129

Trinity charm on 18" chain.

6.00



8.00



MM168

"His and Hers" necklace set—one for him (24" chain) and one for her (18" chain).

12.00



MM184

"Christian Life" necklace, describing 4 significant stages in life. Back may be inscribed with dates.

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Charms are French Solid Nickel Silver

Tie Tacks

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All the (S)—sterling silver and
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MM600S
MM703G



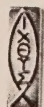
MM636S
MM706G

4.50



MM608S
MM608G

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MM40S
MM40G

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MM607S
MM607G

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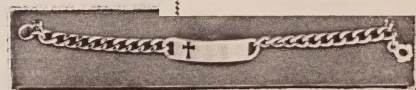


MM627S
MM705G

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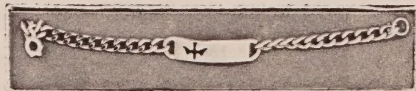
Bracelets

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MM89C
Adult identification bracelet with (C)—cross design. Silver only.

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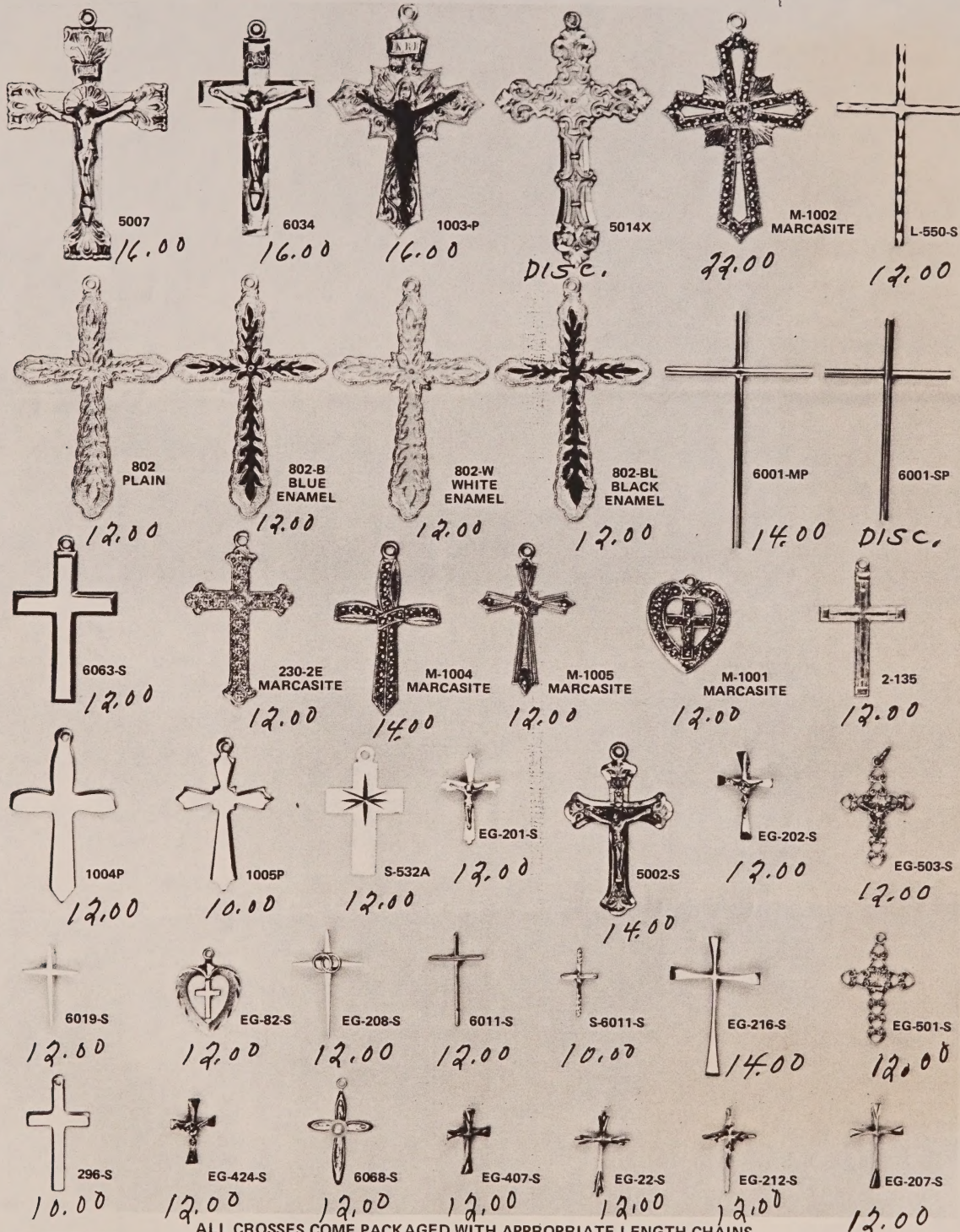


MM89D
Adult identification bracelet with (D)—dove design. Silver only.

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PASTOR'S COLUMN

"SUMMERTIME"

Personally speaking, I have to admit that it is good to see the summer months heading our way. Since we moved into our new church home eight months ago we have all been "busy in the Lord." There were, or course, the necessary repairs to make on the building and through the generosity of church members and friends we were able to "spruce up" the place quite a bit and make it look more attractive. With the event of having the church roofed we have hopefully completed the most pressing major projects that needed to be done.

No sooner did we move in and dedicate our new home then it was time for the congregational meeting and the Fall and Winter holidays. This past Winter and Spring we also celebrated our eleventh anniversary, hosted the Eastern Clergy Conference and the S.E. District Conference, and rejoiced in the resurrection of Christ at Easter. New programs were started including the M.C.C. Cultural Arts Series and there was the major effort and accomplishment of coordinating the use of the facility with various community groups and organizations.

I share this "work list" with you for a couple of reasons. First and foremost we have a great deal to be proud of as regards the moving of the Holy Spirit in our midst in the activities I mentioned. We have kept our pledge to God to make use of our new home and to always do so in the name and for the sake of our Lord's ministry.

My second reason for bringing up this topic is that I feel the summertime offers us an opportunity for rest and refreshment so that we can plan and prepare for a full and exciting Fall season of ministry. That does not mean a falling away from support of worship attendance, existing programs, and financial backing. Rather June, July, and August should be viewed as a time of "green pastures, still waters, and soul restoring." May the summer be a season of peace and refreshment for all of us as we continue to worship, fellowship, and work together.

With love, yours in Christ,
Pastor Gill



Dear faithful Family in Christ,

This is a thank you note to each one of you that has had the time and faith to believe in me and the call that God has placed on my life. Because of your sustaining and enduring love and prayer I have succeeded in fulfilling all the requirements to be licensed as Clergy in the U.F.M.C.C. As of the first day of our General Conference, July 11, I will be a Reverend (can you see my halo growing?).

I have been/am a secretary, mother and grandmother, registered nurse, masseuse, maintenance person, seamstress, laundress, cook.....and naturally, homemaker for the past twenty years. God has blessed me with abilities and talents that I have put to use off and on for a long time. Now, praise God, I can use all my ability to serve the God that we all share, Parent-Creator, Loving Saviour and Teacher-Comforter. (I forgot that I worked one summer as a house painter and another in lawn service....my thinner, younger days).

In the meantime....I am still Frankye with all the feelings and aspirations that I had before, only one of my goals has been accomplished. (Now, let's see.....for my Ordination Thesis I think that I'll write about.....maybe I'll wait a year.....) Actually, I am intent on getting on with life, love, study, praying, preaching and all the rest of the challenges that go along with the title and the call. Remember that I care about you, our church, and our Lord. Lovingly, I remain.....
"the Almost...the Soon-To-Be, the Nearly, the Elect, the Designate, the In-Waiting,

R _ _ r _ d" Frankye



A CASE FOR TERM INSURANCE

Today, we hear more and more about term versus whole life. Newspapers, various reports and a lot of conversation about the merits of term insurance, cash value life insurance and replacement. In truth, there is a crying need for factual information about the insurance contract and more openmindedness among all insurance agents in providing their services to the customer, and it is happening. The customer will profit from the current evolutionary trends of our business. Term insurance plans have come into the limelight and are now being marketed effectively without loss of commission income or fear of high lapse ratios. Flexi-Life has made this a reality.

Listed below are the 12 most often mentioned reasons for writing term insurance coverage instead of whole life.

#1. The object of buying life insurance is to provide financial security in case of premature death; yet the typical cash value life policy pays a much smaller death benefit than do term insurance policies costing the same. A term policy of today can provide long term protection at a much lower price.

#2. The "cash surrender values" of whole life policies will not gain enough to overcome inflation. In fact, almost any investment is better than a whole life insurance policy. Because the rate of interest it pays is so low, it doesn't keep up with the rate of inflation. You may actually lose money in the long run. The argument of security will not hold water today since contract minimum guarantees of annuities are several points higher.

#3. Since the cash surrender value and the pure insurance or risk element of a whole life policy are inseparable upon death, these cash values disappear. The company will pay your beneficiary only the face amount of the policy; no extra cash values will be awarded.

#4. The insurance agent usually is paid far more commission dollars from his company for selling whole life insurance than term policies. This fact can interfere with the professional judgement of the agent, who is tempted to sell as much whole life insurance as possible.

#5. All too often the insurance agent may promise you continuing services when he writes your policy, but the average agent lasts only a few months in the business. Most agents drop out of the profession after they have signed up their family and friends for policies. You will probably have to deal with a different agent in the future, which can affect the service you will receive. Could the high turnover rate of new agents have something to do with their own belief in what they are selling?

#6. The "service" you do receive from your whole life agent is likely to be self-serving, since the training of agents is oriented toward selling ever increasing amounts of whole life insurance rather than objectively considering financial alternatives and guiding the client toward maximizing his own profit through the use of more competitive term and annuity combinations.

#7. Whole life insurance is often sold under the name of "paid up insurance" at a certain age. You must pay even higher premiums at younger ages for these plans so that the policy can be "paid up" by age 65, or whatever. In a real sense, however, it is never "paid up" because the interest you lose on your cash values, which you must leave with the company to keep the policy "paid up", is a hidden annual cost.

#8. Whole life insurance is often sold to young people, because it is supposedly cheaper at younger ages. Simple arithmetic will show you that while the annual premium may be lower at a younger age, you are paying over a longer period of time and losing the use of your money (and interest) over a longer period of time, so ultimately, the cost of the policy isn't really any lower. A term plan could provide adequate coverage and future insurability with the younger person's income justifying the higher premiums at later ages.

#9. The average length of time that most life insurance policies are kept in force is about seven to nine years. Most people let them lapse during this period. In the case of whole life or cash value policies, you are grossly overpaying in the early years - a time when term insurance is relatively inexpensive. So, even if the individual didn't let the policy lapse (if you do, you get next to nothing back), a 30 year old man or woman would overpay for perhaps 20 years until the cost of the premium on term insurance would approach the cost of cash value insurance. The effect is that you have been sold some very expensive term insurance, something that would have cost a lot less if you had started with term to begin with.

#10. The mutual insurance companies, the giants of the industry, add an extra overcharge for dividends. This overcharge may raise the cost of the average policy tremendously. You might take this same money and invest it yourself and get a far better return than the insurance company may pay you as a so called "dividend." And remember, you may not receive the full overcharge back as a "dividend," since they are not guaranteed.

#11. The overwhelming financial power of the life insurance companies has allowed them to influence the public through their agency force and commercials and advertisements. Many State Insurance Department and agents associations have left the life insurance companies pretty much alone even to the extent of protecting the sale of the high cost cash value policies from replacement.

#12. If an interest rate is justified for policy loans because the cash surrender values are a part of the rate calculation, why does the insuring company writing the whole life policies charge the premium payor a higher rate of interest (two to three times as much) that the company itself pays the policyowner? The answer of course is obvious. Anyone who can add or subtract would take their monies out. A strong argument for not having purchased the whole life plan in the first place.

The SUNBURST



The SUNBURST is the official publication of THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH, 330 S.W. 27th ST. Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33315. The church office phone numbers are: area code 305, 462-2004 and 462-2014.

The SUNBURST is one of our church's ministries. It is published and mailed during the last week of the month prior to the month of issue. Our goal for this ministry is to publish a monthly magazine consisting of a mixture of theological and faith-sharing articles which celebrates the enjoyment of Christain living. We want to share the positive thoughts of Christ, the Savior all who believe. All contributions for publication are gladly accepted and may be published in the current issue or kept on file for possible publication in future issues.

Publication of the name of any person, business, or organization shall not be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of that person, business, or organization. The views expressed are those of the individual authors, unless otherwise indicated.

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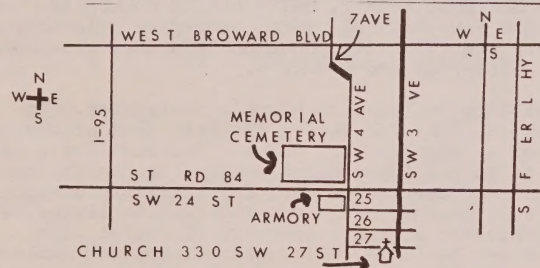
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MONTHLY PRAYER LIST

Prayers of Petition:

For continued growth of the church during
the summer months.
For Jack Mc Connell as he takes his exams
for his job.
For brothers and sisters working hard at
their relationships.
That GAY PRIDE WEEK will be filled with love,
joy and peace.

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

For those who completed requirements to be
licensed as Clergy in the District.
For the wonderful time shared with sisters
and brothers from the District at the
Conference here.
May God bless all those who worked so very
hard on the production of "You're A
Good Man, Charlie Brown."
Thanksgiving prayers for the Pastor, Pastoral
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I AM YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

I am your church office. Sometimes I feel neglected. When you are planning to move, you notify every magazine to which you subscribe and you notify your friends; but sometimes you fail to notify me.

When your group plans a meeting you notify all the members but sometimes fail to notify me. This can be embarrassing for all of us, especially when I have promised to another church group a room that you planned to use.

When a member of your house is ill, you seem to call all your friends but me. I like to know about all our people who are sick. This makes it easier for the pastor and others who want to visit in the hospital.

So why don't you call me? I sometimes feel neglected.

The church phone numbers are: 462-2004
462-2014

* Idea from PRODIGAN, MCC, San Diego, CA.


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FOR DETAILS

CONTACT: DAVID GORDON

OFFICE 755-2403 or CHURCH 462-2014

"God made our bodies temples for our souls,
and they should be kept strong and clean to
be worthy of the deity that occupies them."
-- Kahlil Gibran

FIRM BELIEVERS

It's a new group at M.C.C. which will do exercises
in moderation to contemporary religious music.

The basic program each evening will be as
follows:

- 15 min. warm-up period
- 20 min. exercise period
- 10 min. rest period
- 20 min. exercise period
- 15 min. cool - down period.

All you need is to bring comfortable clothes -
shorts, tee shirt, etc., a towel and sneakers...
no bare feet allowed.

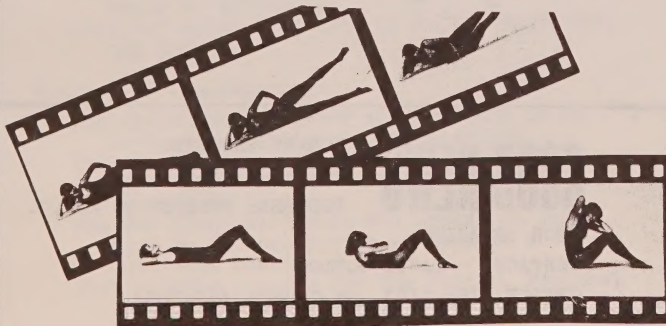
We're starting Friday, June 3rd at 7:30 PM
continuing through the month of August. The class
will be held in the Upper Room Social Hall.

Please make sure that you have spoken to
your doctor in regard to the exercise program.

Now that you have all this information, bring
the equipment you need....come and firm your
muscles and pull and stretch those limbs believing
that with our Christ all things are possible.

In love and with great faith,

Thom



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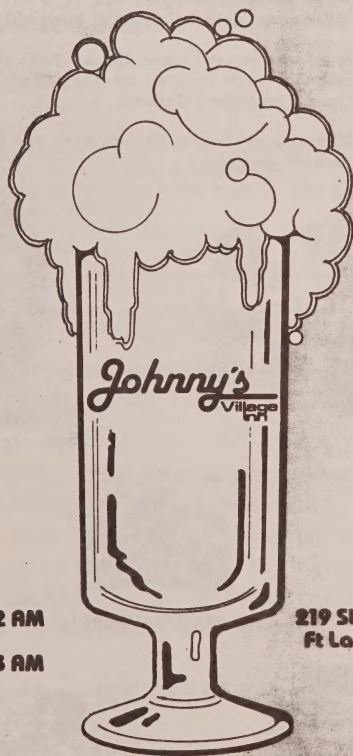
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Set the stage

A few messages about Church activities for the summer months:

*** The A.C.T.+S. class will be in full swing for the summer months. Expect to see new faces in Worship service, new voices on the phones, and some new loving and caring coming from more brothers and sisters.

*** There will be no Wednesday night service for the summer months....attendance has been good, but we are shifting focus a little to allow for some summertime relaxation and to let a lot of our hard-working laity concentrate on the A.C.T.+S class.

*** In this issue you will find an article about "Firm Believers".....It will go right along with Fred's classes on "Caring for the Temple." Do yourself a healthy favor and join Thom for the exterior and Fred for some interior body-building. It takes a healthy body to support the inquiring, faithful mind that each of you has as Christian men and women.

*** Don't forget to join us for the YARD SALE!! It is always beneficial both to you and us. After all, it is our twice a year time to trade our very best(and not so best) "junk/treasures" with one another.....just another dimension to the Christian Fellowship that we share.

*** If you're going on vacation, please let us in the office know. That way we can pray for your safe travel, be appropriately envious, and not worry about what in the world has happened to you!

*** Please keep active reading your Bible.... You can pick up daily devotionals and a Bible Reading guide in the Church Bookstore.

*** All in All.....have a GREAT ONE!!

Frankye

SUNDAY COOKING

Carrot Pineapple Cake

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 3 eggs | 1 cup chopped nuts |
| 2 cups Sugar | 1 cup salad oil |
| 2 cups Shredded carrot | 3 cups sifted flour |
| 1 can (small) crushed pineapple with juice | 1 tsp. soda |
| 2 tsp. Vanilla | $\frac{1}{2}$ cup golden raisons |
| 1 tsp. salt | |

Mix ingredients in order given. Line 2 loaf pans with waxed paper or prepare in 9" tube pan.
Bake at 350 degrees for 75 minutes.

If loaf pans are used freeze one cake for later use.

Harry B.

Bourbon Hotdogs

- 1 cup bourbon
- 1 cup catsup
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 pkg. hotdogs, bite size

Combine in casserole dish. Bake at 350 for 1 hour. Serve.

Submitted by: Tom & Ken

ITALIAN BREAD DIP

Fry fresh hot peppers in olive oil. Remove hot peppers and brown sliced garlic in same oil. Slice 2 fresh tomatoes in bowl add fried peppers, salt, pepper, garlic salt (last three to taste). Mix well and pour browned garlic and olive oil over and stir. Serve with Italian Bread.

BOLLOS

1 pound Blackeye Peas (soaked in water overnight)
In the morning, slip the skins from the peas. Grind the peas and three cloves of garlic with the finest knife of the food chopper until it is almost a paste. Add a teaspoon each of salt fresh red peppers ground. Beat until it is the consistency of a cake batter, adding water little by little as needed. Drop from a round teaspoon into deep, medium hot fat and let brown keep turning so they will brown evenly.

Recipe submitted by:
Jerry Mitchell

THE SOCIAL SCENE

June looks like another very busy month of activities. Our calendar is packed with exciting Saturday night events. M.C.C. Night at the races is a sure winner set for 7:30 PM on June 11.

The following Saturday, June 18, should be nothing less than a real hoedown. It's Jackie's Southern Comfort Night which in itself will prove to be a delight, but it's followed by a Square Dance, just what many of us have been waiting for.

The last Saturday of the month, June 25, at 7:30 closes the month's social calendar with another of our infamous Covered Dish Dinners followed by entertainment.

You don't know what you will miss if you miss one of the events. Below are a few memory joggers:



THE ANDREW ? SISTERS ?



THE CHICKEN
FROM CELEBRITY ROAST



THE "ENTERTAINMENT"



THE ABUNDANT FOOD



THE SHARING
AND FELLOWSHIP

The lowest ebb is the turn of the tide.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Most of the shadows of this life are caused by standing in one's own sunshine.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Mother was unable to attend church services one Sunday but was anxious that Egbert, her oldest boy should go.

"Egbert, were you at Church?"

"Yes, Mother."

"Where did you sit?"

"Oh, where we usually sit."

"Egbert, something tells me that you didn't go to church at all.

What was the sermon about?"

"The sermon was about. . . er, ah. . . something about keeping your shirt on and you will get a blanket."

"Oh, egbert, there is nothing like that in the Bible. I'm going to call the minister and ask."

She called the minister who told her that the text was: "Be patient, and the Comforter will come."

SUCCESS If you have tried to do something and failed, you are vastly better off than if you had tried to do nothing and succeeded.

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1. An unusual preoccupation with self; over-emphasis in conversation about I, me, we, us, mine, ours.
2. A lump or thickening in the wallet or bank account without regard for the great needs of others.
3. A sore feeling of anger or resentment that persists and does not heal.
4. A change in prayer life and attendance at worship, from regular to irregular.
5. A feeling of uneasiness when matters relating to God, Christ and the church are mentioned.
6. Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing Christian thought or references to commitment, witnessing or stewardship.
7. A change in size, color or complexion when asked, "Are you an active, participating member of your church?"

How Is the Health of Your Soul? If you were alarmed by any of these warning signs, we suggest a consultation with the Great Physician (III John 2).

Selected

YOU ARX A KXY PXRSON!

Xvxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll xxcxpt for onx of thx kxys. I wishxd many timxs that it workxd pxrfxctly. It is trux that thxrx arx forty-onx kxys that function wxll nxough, but just onx kxy not working makxs thx diffxrxncx. Somxtimxs it sxxms to mx that our Church is somxwxh lxkx my typxwritxr. . . . not all the pxoplx arx working pxprxry. You may say to yoursxlf, "Wxll, I am only onx pxrson. I won't makx or brxak a program." But it doxs makx a diffxrxncx bxcausx any program, to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx activx participation of vxvry mxmbxr. So thx nxxt timx you think you arx only onx pxrson, and that your xfforts arx not nxxdxd, rxmxmbxr my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I am onx pxrson, but I am a KXY pxrson in our Church and I am nxxdxd vxry much!" Wxhn onx kxy doxs not work anothxr kxy must do twicx as much work.

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The Lord is my pacesetter, I shall not rush,
 He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals,
 He provides me with images of stillness
 Which restore my serenity,
 He leads me in ways of efficiency, through
 calmness of mind,
 And His guidance is peace.

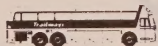
Even though I have a great many things to
 accomplish this day,
 I will not fret, for His presence is here.
 His timelessness, His all importance will
 keep me in balance.

He prepares refreshment and renewal in the
 midst of my activity
 By anointing my mind with oils of tranquility,
 My cup of joyous energy overflows.

Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be
 the fruits of my hours,
 For I shall walk in peace with my Lord,
 And dwell in His house forever.

Submitted by Alice

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fellowship news

I had the privilege of having Barbara Toller, pastor of M.C.C. Pensacola, Fl., as my house guest for a week during District Conference. Barbara and her spouse have been active in M.C.C. for over twelve years, and a close friend for about five years. They recently celebrated their 17th anniversary.

Pastor John has contracted "Conference Fever". Watch out for it, it's contagious! We all are looking forward to renewing friendships at the General Conference in Toronto. We haven't seen most of our friends in two years.....not since Houston in August, 1981.

Toronto, Canada is a perfect city for the first conference outside the United States. Toronto has an excellent public transportation system, including a subway which is not only clean and safe but also relatively inexpensive. Eaton Center is a famous shopping center and is a marvel of architectural beauty. There are many small and attractive eating establishments as well as many interesting educational, historical and recreational places to visit.

In the center of the city is the large campus of The University of Toronto which encompasses a number of colleges. Our Conference will be held in New College, with worship services being held daily in Convocational Hall. The Hall is a circular auditorium seating over 1700 and contains a large pipe organ which we will be renting for the conference. Meetings will be held in the Medical Science Buildings which have an auditorium and numerous classrooms to be used for seminars.

Toronto M.C.C. will have a 'hospitality room' at the University. They are also producing a "Memorabilia Booklet" which will provide information on restaurants, sights to see, and a sample listing of a variety of community landmarks.

The first meeting of Conference will be in the morning of Monday, July 11th. Since most people will be arriving on Sunday, July 10th, many of us will have the opportunity to attend the regular worship service of M.C.C. Toronto at 7 PM. And those who plan to stay over on Sunday, July 17th, are invited to join in the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the church.

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Jim Corrigan



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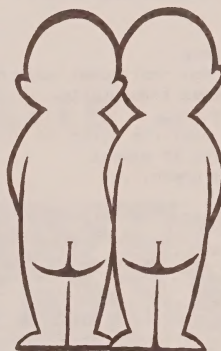
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BUYING

HEAVENLY
HASH

ICE

CREAM

BY M. CAMP



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Need
Your
Input...
Ideas
Articles
etc.

for the

Sunburst

"The Message Of The Gulf"

What a calm and peaceful day it is---how my heart is elated,
And my spirits uplifted accentuated by the calming affect
of the sea...

It is the first day of May, Spring is here.
And the tourists have left to go north for their cool summers
and I'm glad for the quiet and welcomed tranquility.

As I sit sunning myself and gazing out over the water
My mind is free to remember and open also to expect
We've had some rain and all is lush and green....

The ocean breeze caresses the pompus grass, the bathers
and a sail boat bobbing in the water like a plastic boat in
a bath tub.
What a glorious man made machine...

So many times I have come to this spot, a place I really enjoy,
Located by the Horizon House and the newly constructed Savoy.

Our beaches are public, our town founders said
"no one owns the sea",
I tell people that and they realize why this place
is so special to me....

The powderlike sand cushions your steps as you walk along
the beach
The greens, blues and colors of the water are all within
your reach....
Every now and then a wave breaks the calm to remind us
of the oceans power
My tanning lotion is fading, my body feels kissed by the sun
Guess I'll get home for that welcomed shower !

Copyright 1982

Joanne Sinko

VEST POCKET EDITION OF 23RD PSALM

Beneath me: Green pastures
Beside me: Still waters
With me: my Shepherd
Before me: a table
Around me: Mine enemies
After me: goodness and mercy
Beyond me: the house of the Lord.

Selected

SPECIAL PERSON

DALE CLINTON ANDERSON

Few people have the variety of interests and talents of our Special Person this month. Andy, as he is called by most of us has studied horticulture, nursing, and art in various colleges across country. He attended Bakersfield Jr. College, Los Angeles City College, Multanomag Valley College, Antelope Valley College, and Broward Community College. With this background, Andy says if anyone wants advice on community colleges feel free to ask him.

While continuing with his education and plans were going well, Uncle Sam decided that it was time for Andy to join the Army. Drafted in June of 1967, Andy spent one year in Viet Nam. Having been trained as a field medic, he spent most of his time in the medic corp driving an ambulance.

Upon completion of his 'stay in the Army', Andy returned to his studies as well as taking many jobs. Even in his work experience, Andy showed his varying interest by the diversity of positions he held: selling shoes and managing a Thom McAnn Shoe Store, work-in a variety of hospitals, and even setting tile.

Knowing of his life style preference even before marriage, Andy still married a woman with whom he had attended school. The marriage lasted nine and one-half years but then came the divorce. Andy felt that there was still something missing within his life. He knew he was gay and had taken the steps to live the life style accordingly, but there was something more he felt he needed, something to lift him spiritually. As always God supplies the need where we are. For, while living in Portland, Oregon he met a man in a bar who introduced Andy to M.C.C. in February, 1977.

Clary and I met Andy at General Conference in Los Angeles in August 1979. Upon returning from vacation in September, we were pleasantly surprised to discover that he had moved to Fort Lauderdale. I was honored to be a witness at the Holy Union of Andy and Bo on October 3, 1981. A always kid Bo that I met Andy first.

Andy has been active in the Ft. Lauderdale M.C.C. ever since. He has served on the Finance committee for a year, as secretary of that committee and is chairperson of fund raising for the church. The CHURCH LOVE IS BUILDING campaign has been very successful under his leadership and one of the programs just completed was the Cutural Arts Series.

Active, caring, and giving of his time, efforts and talents to the church and friends alike only begins to describe Andy. Just ask anyone who has used the 'Andy and Bo' moving van service. All these accomplishments in just a few years, since his parents welcomed his arrival as their fourth son on February 8, 1947 in San Bernardino, California.

Rumor has it that Andy is still planning more for the future with western gear in his dreams. Good luck to both of you and God be with you in the saddle.

Jim Corrigan

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 june 1983			OPEN EVENING 1	7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 2	7-10 PM Family Night-Meadows Community Center 7:30 PM "Firm Believers" Upper Room Social Hall 3	YARD SALE AND AUCTION 4
11 AM Worship Rev. Gill 5:30 PM Congregational Rap for Gen. Conference 7:45 PM Sing-spiration 8 PM Worship Rev. Gill	5 7:30 PM "Sharing You and Your Faith" with J. Mitchell 7:30 PM Social Committee Meeting	6:PM Pastoral Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting	7 OPEN EVENING 8	7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9	7-10 PM Family Night-Meadows Community Center 7:30 PM "Firm Believers" Upper Room Social Hall 10	10:00 AM Work Party at the Church 7:30 PM M.C.C. Night at the Races 11
11 AM Worship Frankye White Preaching 1 PM A.C.T.+S. 8 PM Worship Frankye White Preaching	12 7:30 PM "Sharing You and Your Faith" with J. Mitchell SUNBURST DEADLINE	13 7:30 "Upper Room" Prayer Time	14 OPEN EVENING 15	7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 16	7-10 PM Family Night-Meadows Community Center 7:30 PM "Firm Believers" Upper Room Social Hall 17	7:30 PM JACKIE'S SOUTHERN COMFORT NIGHT Prepared Dinner and Square Dance 18
FATHER'S DAY 19 11 AM Worship Rev. Gill 1 PM A.C.T.+S. 5:30 PM Congregational Rap for Gen. Conference 8 PM Worship Rev. Gill	20 7:30 PM Finance Committee 7:30 PM "Caring for the Temple" with Fred T.	7:30 Board of Directors Meeting 7:15 PM Sunburst Committee Meeting 7:30 PM SUNBURST ASSEMBLY	21 OPEN EVENING 22	6:30 PM Music Committee Meeting 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 23	7-10 PM Family Night-Meadows Community Center 7:30 PM "Firm Believers" Upper Room Social Hall 24	7:30 PM Covered Dish Dinner and Entertainment 25
11 AM Worship Rev. Gill Preaching 8 PM Worship Frankye White Preaching GAY PRIDE SUNDAY	26 7:30 PM Build-ings & Grounds Committee 7:30 PM "Caring for the Temple" with Fred T.	27 7:30 "Upper Room" Prayer Time	28 OPEN EVENING 29	7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 30	FLAG DAY JUNE 14th 	

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June 17, 1983

Dear Marge,

I've had an outrageously
hectic summer, but all is
~~going~~ going well. On the
1st day I went looking for an
apartment, I found a house
for rent for \$200 per month.
I grabbed it up quick! If my
graduation, ordination, & wedding
all take place in the next
2 weeks as scheduled, ~~to~~
my new address as of July 15th
will be:

1409 "A" St.
LaPorte, Indiana 46350

Please pray for me!

I thought I was going to
let back to Boston
before the Germanians here
at convention, but I was
urged to stay out here, and
I have been kept very
busy with church activities
all summer long. My only
chance for a "vacation" will
be this coming week, and
I don't have left papers
for this as so many last-
minute problems usually come
up before a convention.
When I do return to
Boston, it probably will be for
only a day - July 22, and
I'll have a lot of packing to
do before the women are due to
arrive on the 23. Good a night!
I'll even be packing in some
in August!

Marge, I hope things
are going better for you.
You have certainly had
a rough year! Thank
you for all of your support
over the years. It was
your encouragement and
preaching opportunities that
have kept up my desire
to be a minister. I
hope we can keep in touch.

Love,

Ted

My dear I hope things
are going better for you.
You have certainly had
a rough year! But
you for all of your support
over the years. It was
your encouragement and
franchising opportunities that
have kept up my desire
to be a minister. I
hope we can keep in touch.
Love,
Les

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
Schedule of Events for JUNE 1983 Metropolitan Community Church ILLIAMO		Make June a month of personal revival!	1 Praise & Prayer Service 7:30 - - - New Freedom Evangelistic	2 Awareness Group, 7:30 Team in Vancouver	3 Bingo, 7 BC - - -	4
5 Sunday School, 6:30 Worship Service, 7:30 Rev. Reid Christensen	6 Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 (open)	7 Board Meeting, 7:30	8 Praise & Prayer Service 7:30 - - - New Freedom Evangelistic	9 Awareness Group, 7:30 Guest: Steve Team in Edmonton, AL - - -	10 +++WEEKEND REVIVAL+++ 7:30 Picnic, 2	11
12 +++REVIVAL+++ Sunday School, 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Rev. Keith Mitchell	13 Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 (closed)	14	15 Praise & Prayer Service 7:30 - - - New Freedom Evangelistic	16 Awareness Group, 7:30 (closed) Team in Calgary, AL - - -	17	18 STD Screening, 9-12 M
19 SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING & DINNER, 5:30 PM Sunday School, 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Rev. Reid Christensen	20 Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 (open)	21 Staff Meeting, 7:30	22 Praise & Prayer Service 7:30 - - New Freedom Evangelistic	23 Awareness Group, 7:30 Team in Colorado Springs, CO -	24 Bingo, 7	25
26 Sunday School, 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Rev. Reid Christensen	27 Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 (closed)	28	29 Praise & Prayer Service 7:30 - - - New Freedom Evangelistic	30 Awareness Group, 7:30 COMING- General Conference Birthday Celebration Team in Omaha, NE - - -		

FELLOWSHIP FLASHES--news from around the world of U.F.M.C.C.

Mcc Tampa, FL recently burned their mortgage. Marilyn Marr, former student clergyperson from St. Louis, is the pastor. In a recent issue of their newsletter, The Crusader, they reprinted the Freedom Bus Payoff Pledge for the New Freedom Evangelistic Team. Do you see the connection?

MCC San Diego, CA was recently presented with a \$37,000 church organ. The instrument is equivalent to a pipe organ with 50 sets of pipes.

From the Paraclete, MCC in the Valley, we learn that church has a DUO Fund (do Unto Others). The church takes a tithe of their offerings and places it into the DUO Fund to help take care of brothers and sisters in need. The church has found that it is wiser to donate funds to agencies that have professional staff in place than to create 'social work committees' within their own church. Community organizations and other MCC's etc. are recipients of funding. The DUO committee, which is open to membership participation, recently made a number of well thought out recommendations for funding, which were subsequently approved by the Board of Directors. One such grant is of special interest...

"The New Freedom Evangelistic Team team travels around the country in a 'bus' to churches within the Fellowship that invite them. These gospel-style evangelists have been heard by many in our congregation. \$200 was allocated to the Team to aid in paying for their bus."

The Toronto General Conference will be dealing with a Government Structures and Systems proposal to radically change the structure and financing of UFMCC. Hopefully, information will be forthcoming so Illiamoans can discuss the proposals and instruct their delegate accordingly.

Mark Hobart, student clergy candidate, will be leading the District Conference Choir in Minneapolis, MN the Memorial Day weekend. Congratulations!

The Great Lakes District approved partial funding (to
Continued bottom next page...

SOCIAL COMMITTEE TO HOLD THREE EVENTS IN JUNE

In addition to a Picnic on Saturday, June 11, in conjunction with the Weekend Revival, the social committee is planning a treasure hunt in association with another dance. The hunt will be held Friday, June 17, and the dance on Saturday, June 18. Items collected on the hunt will be used for the dance(?).

Anyone wishing to take part in the treasure hunt should:
-get a team together of 3-4 people (one needs a car)
-sign team up with Bob by 6-16-83
-be at church Friday, June 17, by 7:30 starting time (you have two hours to find your list and return to the church).

Those needing help finding a team should please see Bob.

***** ***** ***** ***** *****
A ship is safe in the ocean as long as the ocean is not in the ship, and a Christian is safe in the world so long as the world is not in the Christian.

***** ***** ***** ***** *****
CHANGE...continued
smooth. People have told Reid that when he leaves Illiamo, Illiamo will fall apart. What could be more disheartening for a pastor to hear? True, a few people may leave. Those people who have used Reid as an excuse to stay away may or may not show up. Chances are they will look for another excuse (and any one will do, just as long as they don't have to shoulder the responsibility themselves). But the core group will remain stable. Those are the people who have been coming to church to worship Jesus Christ. If everyone would put forth a little extra effort--laugh at the little goof-ups, not be "mortally wounded" by unintentional slights, and volunteer whenever and wherever possible--Illiamo can prove the doomsayers wrong. And you will.

Change can be brightening. It is stepping out into the unknown. With God on your side it is also stepping out in faith. And with this spirit of faith change can mean growth and renewed vitality. A period of spiritual energy can be just around the corner for Illiamo. Let's all pledge to spend time talking with God about the future of Illiamo. If we work in God's will, it has to be right.

CHANGE
by John Moore

In the middle of August there will be a major change at MCC Illiamo. After almost eight years of serving as Worship coordinator pastor, Reid will be leaving. No matter how effective the new pastor is or how well planned the switch will be, there will be noticeable differences. Also, MCC Illiamo is contemplating a move to a new building. The move could mean considerable savings for us, but it also means leaving our church home of almost eight years.

Any time we face change we can expect to experience some level of anxiety, whether it be the gingle of anticipation or the crippling effects of fear. After all, whenever there is change there is a certain amount of destruction of the norm; the status quo; the routine. Change means moving into the unknown--even when we know the new pastor well, even when we have spent hours touring the mentally re-decorating the new building. We never know for sure until whatever we are anticipating actually happens.

Long before we have the facts, Illiamoans have been discussing--dare I say arguing about--the pros and cons of Willie's offer to rent us the second floor of his building. Some people say "Absolutely not!" but cannot provide any reason (notice I did not qualify that by saying "logical reason"). They have given no reason whatsoever. Others are baffled by any reluctance to jump at such a fantastic offer. Few of us seem willing to wait for the facts; we are all willing to make a verdict long before the opening statements. The important thing to remember--and we have all said it when we have been sitting pretty in our newly painted and scrubbed, nicely furnished sanctuary--is that a building does not a church make. The church is within each one of us. We take it with us wherever we go. It is whatever we make of it. We can make any place suitable for worship. Just ask anyone who was around before we put the paint and polish to our present building--it was a pit.

This discussion of a new building almost overshadows the more certain change of pastors. The transition from Reid to Ron Anderson as Interim Pastor is being planned well and appears smooth. And there is no reason why it should not be. Continued bottom next page...

UPDATE! UPDATE! UPDATE! UPDATE! UPDATE! UPDATE!

MCC PEORIA

Worship service attendance varies from 12 to 26 with excellent representation from Illiamo each week. Membership classes have been completed by many and eight members were received into formal membership Sunday, May 22. Unusually high interest and participation was experienced at a recent workshop on 'Homosexuality and the Bible.' Illiamo Deacon Charles Rueb will preach his first sermon at Peoria on May 29 while Mike is at the Mid-Central District Conference. Reid covers the Peoria pulpit on June 5.

NEW FREEDOM EVANGELISTIC TEAM

Completing services throughout California the team is about to depart for a long trip into Canada returning to Colorado. Because of the great distances involved, travel costs escalate beyond normal budget projections. Continue to pray for the team as they wind up the last six weeks of the tour.

I walked a mile with pleasure
She chattered all the way,
But left me none the wiser
For all she had to say.

I walked a mile with sorrow
And ne'er a word said she;
But oh, the things I learned from her
When sorrow walked with me!

-Robert Browning

FELLOWSHIP FLASHES...continued

be added to MCC Springfield's contribution) for a circuit-riding ministry for central Illinois. The pastor selected will take charge of the Springfield group, assist the group in Bloomington-Normal, investigate other cities for possible MCC works and relieve Mike Howard in the Peoria pulpit once a month. Praise the Lord!



FROM THE STUDY...

As we enter the pentecost season (Pentecost Sunday was May 22) we are reminded of the passage in Acts describing how the Holy Spirit descended upon all the assembled believers "like tongues of fire."

The same Spirit is with us today--accomplishing very similar responses among our people. When we gather to pray--and when we give opportunity to praise God through our testimony period--it's as if we were hearing the tongues of angels as those in our midst proclaim the sovereignty of God in their lives! There may not be an abundance of 'speaking in tongues' but other, more important, gifts of the Spirit are easily recognizable.

Galations 5:22 lists the gifts of the Spirit as ".love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...". Do you recognize these gifts in others? In yourself?

We may not be able to see every gift in every person. However, we can see every gift in the corporate body--the church. Take a look at the list of gifts again and this time attach a name of someone you know that possesses and exhibits that particular gift exceptionally well. You may find you come up with the same name (person) for several of the gifts. Likewise, you may find it difficult to see any manifestations of the Spirit in a few others. However, God continues to anoint, establishing one of the gifts in one, adding a gift to another. Our 'openness' to the Holy Spirit is the only criteria. The gifts are still available!

Rejoice in the fact that God is working among us, within us, changing us, molding us, making of us the true disciples He would want us to be. And, praise God, He's not through with us yet! This is just the beginning--as Pentecost was just the beginning for the early church!

With love, Reid

***** ***** ***** ***** *****

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Greg L. 1st
Glenda C. 14th

Mark H. 6th
Michalene H. 22nd

ILLIAMO INFO...news for and about our church family

Russell reports the bookstore has some new MCC necklaces. Take a look at them!

Hooray! The plate-maker in the print room is back in working order and Bradley is busy making Lamplighter and Evangelite corrections.

Our monthly congregational dinners continue to be excellent, thanks primarily to Lee McMeins, but also to many, many dedicated volunteers. Thank you--each one! It's wonderful to have the family break bread together.

On Friday, May 13, the social committee held its first dance this year. Although 25 were in attendance (a good start) the planners are seeking some feed-back on the event. Give your comments to Bob, Bridgett, Bubby, Harry or Sheldon. The committee is planning a day in the part Saturday, July 2 as well as another dance and treasure hunt (see separate story). Following the park event an open AA and NA, plus AA Anon meeting will be held at 6p.m. See Bridget for details.

WOW! Have you noticed Wednesday Prayer & Praise Service attendance. Perhaps those that are not attending had better find out what they are missing.

Reid recently attended the Great Lakes District Conference in Dayton, OH. (Carbondale is in that district).

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

TO DISCUSS ALTERNATE CHURCH FACILITIES

Sunday, June 19, 1983, at 5:30 p.m.

Immediately Following Congregational Dinner

SEVEN ILLIAMOANS ATTEND MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Two cars containing seven Illiamoans are traveling to Minneapolis, MN for the Mid-Central District Conference Friday thru Sunday, May 27-29.

Besides four worship services, workshops are being held for Government Structures and Systems (about reorganizing the Fellowship), Faith Fellowship and Order (similar to the Saturday workshop held in Quincy), a Deaf Ministry Workshop, one on Music and another on Parliamentary Procedure. Sight-seeing tours are also offered.

One of the prime business affairs to be decided is whether the district should increase dues and put a district coordinator on a FULL time basis. Elections for that coordinator will also be held.

Speakers for the conference include the Revs. Jan Kross (Omaha), Bob Galloway (Waterloo), John Barbone (Kansas City) and Tom Jordan (St. Louis).

Just prior to the conference the District Review Committee will be interviewing prospective clergy candidates for licensing and already-licensed clergy for relicense. (Reid appears before this group on Friday).

Human minds are like wagons. When they have a light load they are much noisier than when the load is heavy.

It isn't necessary to blow out the other person's light to let your own shine.

THE LAMPLIGHTER is the Monthly newsletters of
Metropolitan Community Church-Illiamo
802½ Maine, Quincy, Illinois 62301 Phone (217) 224-2800
Reid L. Christensen, Pastor
Ron Anderson, Associate Pastor
Michaelene Howard, Student Clergy
Robert Sronce and Charles Rueb Deacons

Regular Meeting Times:

Sunday Worship at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday Praise & Prayer Service 7:30 p.m.

LAMPLIGHTER COMMITTEE: Sharon Davis and Bradley Seager, co-chairs; Terry Goodwin; Russell Hobbs; Robin Schmidt,

Deadline: 3rd Sunday for month following

WHO NEEDS THE CHURCH?

All too often the response to our enthusiastic invitation for people to share in our worship is simply "The church--who needs it?"

No one needs it--if the church is just another organization competing with other organizations on the basis of size or finances or prestige or political power or social action.

No one needs it--if the church is only a religious club reflecting the mores and morals and manners of those around it. If it has become so fairminded, so moderate, so anxious to declare its question-marks and intellectual doubts, that it cannot declare Christ as Savior and Lord.

No one needs it--if the church provides only the atmosphere of respectability, the continued protection of the closet and the unstable dignity of deception.

No one needs it--if the church cannot point to the way of peace and love, freedom and joy, confidence and contentment.

The church was meant to be a redemptive agency, a place where God's Word; a place where Christ can be unveiled as the Liberator from oppression, Conqueror over fear, and Destroyer of Guild; a place where there is support from sisters and brothers in moments of weakness, days of discouragement, times of testing, doubt, struggle and disappointment.

The church was meant to be a place where we can meet God and where we can give the best we have to the best we know.

Who needs the Church? We all need the church!

(Reprinted from THE LOVE LETTER, Denver)

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR APRIL, 1983

Beginning checkbook balance	\$ 169.72
Income	\$2,074.22
Expense	2,064.78
Ending checkbook balance	179.16
Apr. wkly avg \$	377.06
Apr. wkly budget	365.00
Difference	12.06
Year-to-date	\$37.25
Ahead Budget	



APRIL ATTENDANCE REPORT

	Sun	Yr Ago	Wed	Yr Ago		Sun	Wed
Apr82	41.5	48.5	13.75	12.2	Apr 3	44*	13
May82	37	32.6	18	13	Apr 10	33	14**
Jun82	40.5	41.75	14.4	19.5	Apr 17	28	20
Jul82	42.5	35.75	21.5	14.5	Apr 24	36	14
Aug82	34.6	25.8	15.25	9	TOTALS	141	61
Sep82	43.75	36	21.6	10.4	Aver.	35.25	15.25
Oct82	38	40	14.75	12.5			
Nov82	49.5	40.4	22	14.2			
Dec82	38.75	44.5	14.4	12			
Jan83	43	43.8	21.25	21.5			
Feb83	34	34	12	13			
Mar83	31.25	42.25	14	12.4			

Illiano Membership as of April 30, 1983 - 53

Courage is not the absence of fear, it's the mastery of it.

*plus 25 at AM service
**at Bethel AME

Invite a guest!

M.C.C. ILLIAMO
892 1/2 Maine
Quincy, IL 62301

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The Metropolitan Community Church ILLIAMO Lamplighter

Volume 9, Issue 6

Quincy, Illinois

June 1983

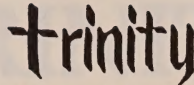
"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a
light unto my path." -Psalms 119:105

'WEEKEND' REVIVAL SET FOR FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY, JUNE 10-12

A three day revival has been set for June 10-12 with a picnic scheduled for Saturday afternoon, June 11. Each service will feature a guest speaker and special music is being arranged.

Leading off the weekend will be a guest from the staff of MCC St. Louis (to be announced) followed by Mark Hobart, student clergy candidate, who will speak on Saturday evening. Finishing the series will be the Rev. Keith Mitchell of Bethel AME, a good friend of MCC Illiano.

The Saturday picnic is being planned by the social committee and specific assignments will be made later. As out-of-town guests are being invited and encouraged to attend the picnic and services, housing is needed. Please contact the office if you are able to house any of our out-of-town guests.



**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
New York City**

June 1, 1983

Dear Friends:

Trinity MCC would like to welcome you to our city on June 26, 1983 for the Lesbian and Gay Pride March.

We also extend to each of you an invitation to join us in our Special Celebration of Life Worship Service at 6 P. M. The church is located at 152 West 66th Street (just west of Broadway).

For your convenience we are planning to open the church at 4:30 P. M. so that you will have a place to relax and refresh. Cool beverages and sandwiches will be available.

All of the congregations of the Northeast and the Mid-Atlantic Districts have been invited to celebrate our Liberation in Christ Jesus. We look forward to seeing you and sharing with you in worship to the glory of God.

Sincerely in Christ's Love,

William H. Smith
Worship Coordinator

TRINITY

Metropolitan Community Church

*A Christian Church with a special outreach
to gays and lesbians of New York City*

WORSHIP WITH US ON GAY PRIDE SUNDAY

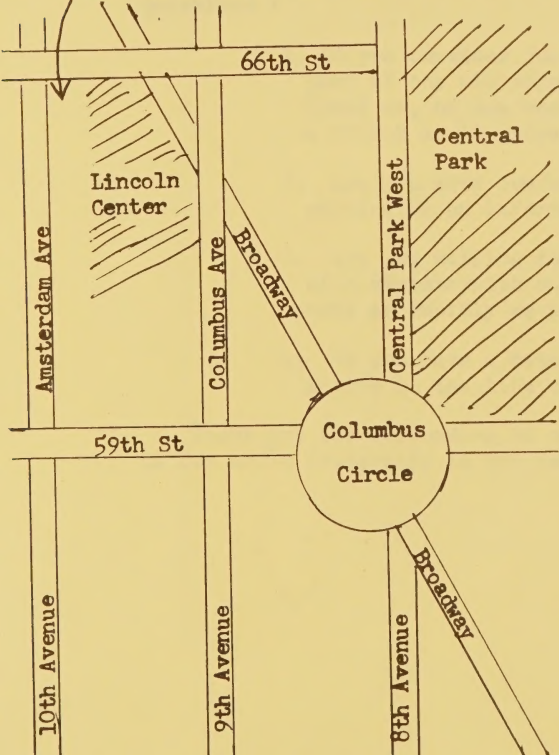
JUNE 26 at 6 pm

152 West 66th Street

For more information, call 274-2374

TRINITY MCC worships at Good Shepherd Faith Presbyterian Church building

HOW TO GET TO TRINITY METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH FROM GREENWICH VILLAGE:



BY SUBWAY:

From Sheridan Square (Christopher & 7th Ave)
#1 IRT train UPTOWN; get off at 66th St station
and exit on 65th St; at 66th street walk
west of Broadway to Church.

From 4th St Station (6th Ave & 3rd St)
A or AA IND train UPTOWN; get off at 59th St
and Broadway & walk up Broadway to 66th St
& then walk west of Broadway to Church.

BY BUS:

- #5 on 6th Ave; get off on Broadway near 66th St;
walk west on 66th St to Church.
- #10 on 6th Ave; get off on Central Park West
near 66th St; walk west on 66th St to church.
- #11 on Hudson St; get off on 10th Ave near
66th St; church is just east of 10th Ave on
66th St.

**Jefferson
Standard**

10 April 1983

Reverend Marge Ragona
223 Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Marge,

I enjoyed talking with you about MCC of the Blue Ridge in Asheville, North Carolina. We think that we have great potential for growth and witnessing, and need the person which we feel God has for us to give leadership.

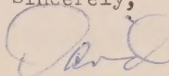
We are limited in our financial resources, and therefore have chosen to take a little different approach to the search for a minister. We are asking three people whom Gil Lincoln has recommended to us to submit resumes and tapes of services so that we can obtain a feeling for each of them from something other than a written page. The pulpit committee will prayerfully review these and recommend that the church ask one to visit us for a weekend to get acquainted and consider what each has to offer while exploring God's will for both the church and the individual we request to visit.

In an effort to get answers for a few questions which our congregation deems important, we have asked that each also respond to the following questions :

1. Do you consider yourself a specialist who does a specific part of the ministry well, and when that task is done moves on, or one who can adapt to the changing needs of a church as it grows and matures?
2. Are you more comfortable with a highly liturgical worship service or an informal evangelical service?
3. Are you willing to partially support yourself in the beginning of a ministry with our church, if the church pledges to move as rapidly as possible to full-time support?
4. Do you have a mate at the present time, and is he/she active in the life of the church?

Thank you for responding to our inquiry. Please be in prayer with us for God's leadership in our search.

Sincerely,



David Mathews



PRODIGAL

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO

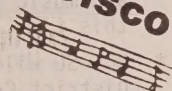
REV. DAVID FARRELL, PASTOR REV. WALT COLLINS, ASSISTANT PASTOR

SEPTEMBER 1983

Food



Disco



The Great MCC Boat Cruise & Dance!

MONDAY

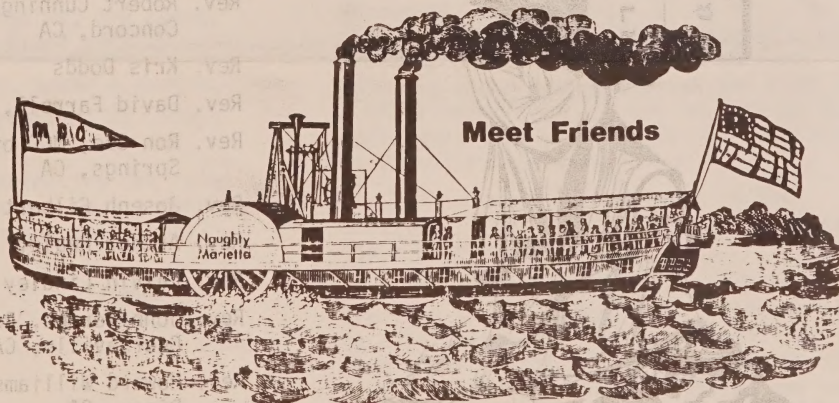
SEPT. 26 TH

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3 HOUR CRUISE ON SAN DIEGO HARBOR

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Services Sunday 10:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. • Wednesday 7:30 P.M.

Happening Soon:



- * The Third Annual Freedom Banquet presented by the San Diego Democratic Club will be held on Saturday, the 10th of September starting at 7:00 PM. This banquet will be at the Regency Ballroom of the Hyatt Islandia on Mission Bay. Tickets are \$35.00 each. Our very own Rev. David will receive the Human Rights Award. Congratulations Rev. David.
- * Our first Anniversary in our new Church home here at 4333 30th Street will be on the 2nd of October. Special events and music are still being planned at this time.
- * MCC-SD will be hosting the Southwest District Conference on November 4-6, (Friday - Sunday). The Western Ministers Conference will also be held here at MCC-SD the following week on November 8-11, (Tuesday - Friday).
- * Kris Dodds will be teaching a Bible Study class on Mondays at 8:00 PM. Call 263-7115 for details.

2 More Clergy Licensed
MCC-San Diego Produces 11

It was with a great deal of anticipation and expectation that we listened to the call of the roll at General Conference in Toronto, Canada last month for the names of two of the Student Clergy from MCC-San Diego to be included with the other clergy. Rev. Art and Rev. Calvin were seated with the newly licensed clergy. Hallelujah and congratulations to you both.

The total number of Clergy from MCC-San Diego is now eleven (11). Can you believe it!? Isn't it just great!!

These are the individuals whom you have raised up and trained and sent out into the world to preach the Gospel, the Good News of Christ as a licensed Clergy of our Fellowship.

Rev. Calvin has announced plans to move to San Francisco, to join the MCC staff there. Rev. Art is candidating but in the mean time we will have the use of his ministry here in San Diego.

By the way, we only send out the best. The "graduates" from MCC-San Diego are these fine people -

- Rev. Bud Bunce, gone home
- Rev. Dennis Chappell, Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA
- Rev. Robert Cunningham, Diablo Valley, MCC, Concord, CA
- Rev. Kris Dodds
- Rev. David Farrell, MCC-San Diego, CA
- Rev. Ron Gee, MCC of the Desert, Palm Springs, CA
- Rev. Joseph Gilbert, MCC Philadelphia, PA
- Rev. Arthur Healey
- Rev. Calvin Lindley
- Rev. John Torres, Russian River MCC, Guerneville, CA
- Rev. Howard Williams, MCC by the Sea, San Diego, CA



Donna's Desk

Children's Appreciation Day,
Sept. 25th, Marks MCCSD Sunday
School Expansion

* Thanks Rev. Troy for spending the 13th and 14th of August with us. I can't wait to see the entire film, "God, Gays And The Gospel...This Is Our Story."

* What an exciting month: Rev. Troy taught us about Peter Pan, and pink, blue and lavender fairies. Sheila brought us Popeye and Olive Oyl on her first Sunday sermon, (She did a fine job - hope you didn't miss it.). And not to be outdone, Diane talked about Pinocchio and Jiminy Cricket. (I wonder who is going to do a sermon about Garfield and Odie?)

* Congratulations Rev. Calvin (#10) and Rev. Art (#11) on the fine services of August 21st. We're real proud of you both. (Didn't they look sharp in their new vestments!)

* Look out San Francisco, here comes Rev. Calvin.

* Let us keep Mae and Fran, Jack B., Dr. Larry, Bill J., Ed K., Liz F., Charlotte K., and Rev. David in our prayers.

* Carol is back in town for a few days. It was good to see her in Church again.

* It was nice to see Rev. John (he sure can sing), and Tim from the Russian River and Rev. Dennis from Christ Chapel MCC in Santa Ana.

* I'm glad Deacon Winnie was able to spend a couple of weeks with us. Say "hi" to Rev. Ron back at Palm Springs for me.

* What's this about penguins, new steps, suntea and the Klu Klux Klan?

* Welcome back Bob & Al, Susan & Margie.

* Max Chodos will be traveling to Europe the first of September. Take care Max.

* Thanks Rusty for coordinating the crew working on the patio steps. You've done a fine job. The carpet on the social hall wall looks great.

* Hard working Terry W. has cleaned the carpets in the Church - WOW! I hear he has a foot fetish - ask him about it. Good luck at your new job.

* Till next time, happy cycling and remember: 20 mile midnight rides CAN be fun.

In response to the growing number of children attending the Sunday morning service, MCCSD Sunday School will kick off an expanded program beginning September 25th. Designated as "Children's Appreciation Sunday", the 10:00 am service will include special music, Rev. Walt's Children's Sermon, and an opportunity for parents to register children for the expanded program.

Children will be assigned to an instructional group according to age, with three age groupings anticipated at this time. Several Church members have generously volunteered to participate as instructors, and new materials have been purchased for use in the Christian education of our children.

All parents and children are encouraged to attend on September 25th for this special day honoring our very special children!!

◆ ◆ ◆
Harbor Cruise on
San Diego Bay

The 11th Annual 3-hour cruise around beautiful San Diego Bay aboard the Naughty Marietta will be held on September 26th, Monday night from 8:30 - 11:30 PM. The ship will depart the dock at the foot of Broadway at 8:30 PM SHARP. It is very strongly urged that you be at the dock by 8 PM in order that you not be left at the dock, waving to your friends on the ship as it pulls away without you.

Tickets will be available in the Bookstore, after Sunday worship services, for a donation of \$7.00.

The contract with the company requires everyone to be 21 years old; drinks will be available for a nominal charge. As usual, there will be disco dancing to the always pleasurable and delightful new wave sounds of the expert audio engineer from Wild Willy Studios.

See you at the dock at the foot of Broadway at 8 PM!!

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO

SEPTEMBER 1983

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

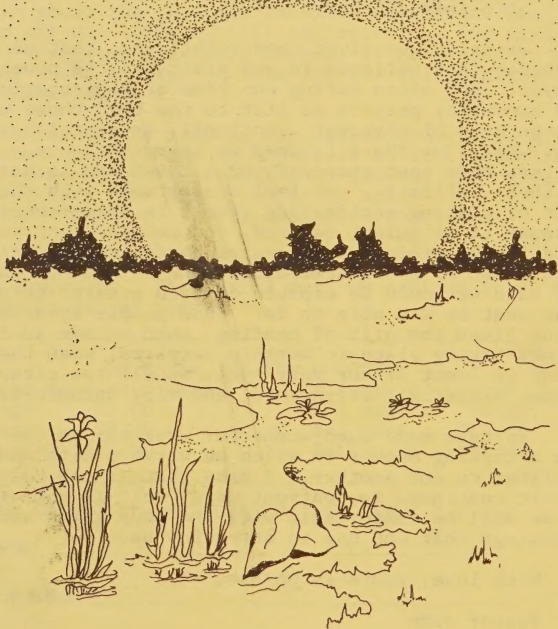
Saturday

* Children's Appreciation Day				1 7:00 PM Ministerial Staff Meeting	2	3
4 10-Rev. David 7-Rev. David	5 LABOR DAY Church Office Closed	6	7 7:30 PM Yvette Dube	8	9	10
11 10-Rev. David 7-Rev. David	12	13	14 7:30 PM Sheila Rawls	15	16	17
18 10-Rev. David 7-Rev. David	19 7:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting	20	21 7:30 PM Sylvia Williams	22	23	24
25 10-Rev. David * 7-Rev. David	26 Annual Harbor Cruise 8:00 pm	27	28 6:00 PM Membership Class 7:30 PM Prayer & Praise Dinner / Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey	29	30	

Sunburst '83

Ft. Lauderdale •

God's Love Is
Eternal



330 SW 27th STREET
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33315

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PASTOR'S COLUMN

"Being Comfortable With The Gifts Of The Spirit"

How often we hear about avoiding at all costs becoming "comfortable Christians". That phrase brings to mind a group of believers who have become apathetic, lost their sense of "spiritual excitement", and taken for granted their blessings and opportunity to minister. Hopefully, there will always be a challenge for us to accept and an opportunity for us to witness to others as we ourselves grow in the Lord.

At the same time, however, we need to be honest with ourselves in admitting that there are certain aspects of our faith with which we are not comfortable - and should be. These elements of Christianity are ones that we have never been exposed to, know little about, or have been misrepresented to us. For many of us from a mainline Protestant or Roman Catholic background the gifts of the Holy Spirit fall into this category.

We pride ourselves, and rightly so, that we are a church that believes in and practices the power of prayer. And often during our time of congregational and community prayers we lift to the Lord those who are in need of physical, emotional, or mental healing. What joy there is when we learn that our prayers have been answered and a loved one is healed of their infirmity. We feel comfortable with the gift of healing manifesting itself in this manner because it is quiet, removed, and unseen. And yet we read in the Bible that miracles performed by Christ were often of a dramatic nature and it was our Lord who said we would be capable of even greater things than what he was able to do. When people speak of being given the gift of healing, when we see such events taking place in worship services, when they occur in front of our very eyes, we all too often become skeptical, frightened, and very uncomfortable.

We have made such wonderful progress in the open and accepting manner in which we worship with and minister to one another. I pray that as the Holy Spirit continues to confront us as well as comfort us we will be comfortable with the many gifts and blessings that God has in store for us.

With love, yours in Christ,

Pastor John



Isn't that a nice title!? This month I would like to use this space to thank every reader and every congregational member and friend for the loving, giving support that you have offered to me on my journey to where I am now.

the Installation Service and the lovely and generous gifts that you gave me are something that I will never forget. The opportunity to serve you in yet another new way is exciting and uplifting. Rev. Gill and I have worked together through many role shifts on my part and I believe God has brought us to this point together so that our ministries may blend in a unified strength that will be a blessing to the Fort Lauderdale congregation and to the Fellowship as a whole.

I am seeing you all grow as a Church and as individuals....the Holy Spirit is moving here in us and our mighty work lays before each of us as Christian men and women. We carry Christ as Our Saviour in our hearts and we must carry the victorious Christ Spirit as a banner before us. The people who know us need to see the strength that God has given us, the acceptance that we have of ourselves, and one another as Christ empowers our lives. We have our victory over sin and death, sadness and discouragement, failure and loss through the Lord who has made us the Overcomers. We are "more than Conquerors" because God has chosen us to carry the Gospel to everyone....regardless of their background, lifestyle, income, race, or any other label that the world affixes to a human being.

Remember that the beginning of the answer to any problem is that God is always present with us. This church has been called into existence so that we might labor together in our Christian growth.

Looks like I've run out of space....I could write for pages about how great I think that you all and the Church are, and YOU ARE!!! Please know that I thank you and that I love you....

Rev. Frankye



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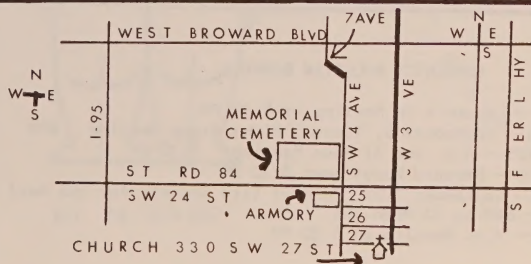


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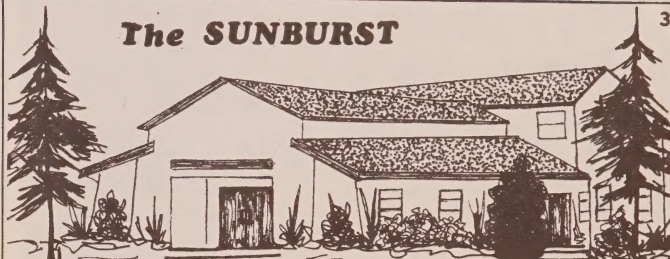
In this little space, I wish to thank my spouse, Kerry, for all the love, kindness, and immense amount of patience that she has expended on me for the past 106 months of her life.... and
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU KERRY!

May there be many, many more for us to share.

Mel-c-toe, I love you
grankys



The SUNBURST



The SUNBURST is the official publication of THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH, 330 S.W. 27th ST. Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33315. The church office phone numbers are: area code 305, 462-2004 and 462-2014.

The SUNBURST is one of our church's ministries. It is published and mailed during the last week of the month prior to the month of issue. Our goal for this ministry is to publish a monthly magazine consisting of a mixture of theological and faith-sharing articles which celebrates the enjoyment of Christian living. We want to share the positive thoughts of Christ, the Savior all who believe. All contributions for publication are gladly accepted and may be published in the current issue or kept on file for possible publication in future issues.

Publication of the name of any person, business, or organization shall not be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of that person, business, or organization. The views expressed are those of the individual authors, unless otherwise indicated.

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Prepared copy or printed	Artwork or Layout
1/4 page \$5.00	1/4 page \$6.00
1/2 page \$8.00	1/2 page \$10.00
Full page \$12.00	Full page \$14.00

WANT TO GET ON The SUNBURST MAILING LIST ????

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fellowship news

What a joy to see and hear Rev. Troy Perry at Miami's MCC Spiritual Renewal. One of his highlights was his talk on UFMCC relations with the National Council of Churches in San Francisco MCC.

NCC is a loose alliance of 32 Protestant and Orthodox denominations. There were 207 delegates of the NCC Governing Board that attended the meeting and services. We are looking for a positive vote in November and a vote of admission could follow in May or November 1984.

Rev. Roy Sano, professor at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley urged the council's 260 member governing board to look beyond the Bible and traditional church policy. "Without personal interaction with MCC congregations and participation in their ministry, we will find we are simply copying the letter of the law and closing our ears to the living word of God."

Rev. Nancy Wilson, clerk of the Board of Elders of our 200 plus churches of the UFMCC termed the San Francisco meeting "very positive. This process has been going on for a year and a half. We entered it not knowing how seriously they would take us, but the NCC has taken our request very seriously. We have no illusions about working a major change overnight, but at least in San Francisco we had a chance to discuss together and most importantly, to worship together."

The most surprising fact was that Rev. Troy Perry had invited the delegates to receive Holy Communion with our congregation. They accepted the invitation. This is the first time in the history of the National Council of Churches they have received Holy Communion as a body... and they have been in existence for 33 years... and it all happened at a MCC service!!

Spread the good news! We are the fastest growing ecumenical Christian church in the world today!

Jim Corrigan

PS: Thanks!!! and we should be proud that we rank ninth out of 200 churches in our tithes to the UFMCC.

GOOD NEWS

FOR DETAILS

CONTACT: DAVID GORDON

OFFICE 755-2403 or CHURCH 462-2014

NOTARY SERVICES

NOW AVAILABLE, ALL

PROCEEDS DONATED TO M.C.C.

THE SOCIAL SCENE

HELP WANTED: A FEW CREATIVE INDIVIDUALS TO ASSIST IN PLANNING AN EXCITING CHURCH SOCIAL PROGRAM. ANY SUGGESTIONS CHEERFULLY CONSIDERED. APPLY IN PERSON ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, AT 7:30 PM, MCC, FT LAUDERDALE

This ad might seem a bit ridiculous, but honestly, the social committee needs some new ideas. We also need people who are willing to help prepare for, operate, and clean up after our socials. If you fit in any of these categories, please join us for our meeting on Thursday, September 1, at 7:30 PM

On Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 5th at 2PM, bring a covered dish and join us for a covered dish picnic dinner. The socializing will probably be a volleyball game or whatever all of you decide to do. We will not have grills available this time, so come prepared.

On Saturday, Sept. 17th, at 7:30 PM, join us for a Chicken dinner and '50's Sockhop. We are hoping that you will come in a '50's type outfit. (Most of you remember those years) to add flavor to the evening. We will offer a prize for the best outfit. Clark will be our DJ for the evening of nostalgia, fun and dancing. We are requesting a donation of \$4.00 for the evening.

Back by popular demand, on Saturday, Sept 24th, at 7:30 PM, we will operate another "Night at the Races". This activity proved to be a lot of fun a few months ago and was requested again. We will precede the races with a covered dish dinner, not a routine one, but with a new twist. Try to use the Sunburst cookbook or bring the recipe for whatever dish you choose to prepare.

These socials are your chance to come out and share in Christian fellowship with your sisters and brothers. Come out and have a good time.

For the Social Committee,

Jim Lynch

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

MONDAYS-- Women's AA Meeting at 8:30 PM

TUESDAYS-- September 6, Tuesday Night Group Meeting, 8PM

WEDNESDAYS-- A.A. and Al-Anon Meetings 8:30 PM

THURSDAYS-- Broward Womyn meet 8:30 PM

FRIDAYS-- September 17th, Coconut City Society for the Deaf at 6PM to 12 Midnight

SUNDAYS-- A.A. Meeting at 6:30 PM

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REMEMBER ME

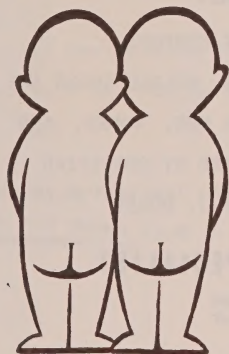
with joy and laughter; for that is
how I will remember you.

IF YOU CAN

only remember me with tears and sorrow,
then don't remember me at all!

LOVE

IS....



BY M. CAMP

KNOWING
ITS
O K
TO
BE
JUST
THE
WAY
YOU
ARE

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SPINACH DIP

1 10 oz package frozen chopped spinach

1 package Knorr Vegetable soup mix

1 can water chestnuts, chopped

1 small container sour cream

1 cup mayonnaise or miracle whip

4-5 chopped green onions

Thaw spinach and drain off excess water. Combine with remaining ingredients and refrigerate overnight for maximum flavor. Serve with crackers.

(This recipe was submitted by Frankie Toller and she says it is absolutely scrumptious!!)

GET INVOLVED

It has been many months since we wrote our last article for the Sunburst. It slips our memory as to where we were at the time. We wanted you to hear from us and to know how we were doing on the New Freedom Evangelistic Team. God blessed our ministry and with the help of Jesus, we did what we could to bring spiritual renewal to our brothers and sisters across this country.

We have been home now for nine months and we are very pleased with how God has blessed the Fort Lauderdale church. We feel so grateful for all the things that are happening to our family here. So many people are involved in the worship life of the church. The music department which we love so much is alive and well and getting better all the time. The "Advanced Christian Training and Service" class is a real blessing to those involved in it and the blessings will soon be felt throughout the church as the A.C.T.+ S. people grow in spiritual strength.

One of the most exciting things just getting started is sing-spiration as a prelude to the worship service. As members of the "Team", we had sing-spiration five nights a week and it was an uplifting experience. Many people are coming to the realization that our church needs this worship tool. We can testify to the fact that what you put into a worship service will determine what you get out of it. We encourage each and everyone of you to come fifteen (15) minutes early and be a part of the sing-spiration whenever one is scheduled. There are so many beautiful songs, each with its own special message if you listen to the words as you sing. When the service is over you can say "Praise the Lord", I sure did enjoy that. So we urge you to come and get involved.

Your Brothers

Dale and Steve

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Weddings/Holy Unions

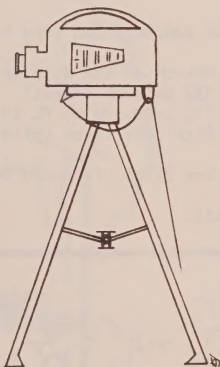
Picnics

Graduations

Church Anniversaries

Awards Presentations

Etc. etc. etc.



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DISNEY WORLD & EPCOT bus trip--come join the gang
October 22. See next issue of the Sunburst for more information.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

Well, back to school time is here! Dust off your Bibles and your notebooks because we are going to undertake a solid Bible study this year. Christian Education night has changed to after Worship on Wednesdays in hopes of making it less hectic and more productive for everyone.

On September 7, I am going to begin teaching a New Testament Survey. It is not going to be something that you have to have Bible knowledge to attend. We are going to start with a lesson or two on the basics of Bible interpretation and methods of Bible reading. After that we will read the Four Gospels together and discuss them. I will be adding background on the dates, authors, purposes and basic themes for you, but, as usual, I want you to do some work too.

If you are serious about studying God's great message to us, then you will need a few supplies. There are a myriad of Study Bibles on the market right now and I have copies of most of them. If you will call me or stop by the office, I can make some suggestions about types and costs of different styles. I would want you to have a notebook, a good ball point pen and perhaps one of the new dry Bible markers. God has given us this Word so that it might be our handbook for life everlasting and for daily life too. We are going to look at Scriptures as they were written to people of the first century and what they mean to each of us in our daily lives....how they can help us to live fully and happily right now.

Please join me in this chance to get to know God, Creator, Christ and Spirit, and to know yourself and one another better.

Rev. Frankye

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Many of you are aware of the recent discussions regarding the funds raised through the social ministry of the church. Most of the questions raised were the result of misinformation or no information at all. Hopefully, this article will answer most of your questions.

Never in the life of this church has money been the primary purpose of the social program. Its primary purpose is to provide an atmosphere conducive to Christian social fellowship. The social program does, however, produce income. The current church budget calls for monthly income from the social committee of \$100.00. Many months the committee exceeds the \$100 figure. The finance committee, board of directors, social committee, and congregation have consistently refused to raise that expectation so that fund raising will not overshadow fellowship. All income above operating expenses becomes part of the church general fund.

As to the door charge for Saturday night socials, there is no such thing. That's right!!! If you read any of our articles or ads, you will notice the phrase "requested donation". Not one person walking into a dinner has ever been forced to pay. This church can be proud to have long ago established the policy that if a person cannot afford to give the requested donation, that does not keep the person from participating in any aspect of church life. You might be surprised to know that in the entire history of this church, we have never served a dinner at which 100% of those attending have given a donation.

If the situation arises that you are unable to give the requested donation, you may, (1) contact the pastoral staff, (2) contact any officer of the social committee, (3) contact any Board member, or (4) just walk past the ticket table when you arrive for dinner. I would hope that those in a difficult financial situation would contact the pastoral staff so that their needs might be included in the prayer list. We are a family that cares for and supports all of its members.

The food for any of our dinners costs only around \$2.00 to \$2.50 per person. Why then do we request a donation of \$4.00 to \$5.00? In addition to the food, there are hidden expenses- paper plates, cups, bowls, napkins, table covers, cutlery, decorations, etc. Any funds over and above all of these costs are applied to the total operation of the social program. We are involved in not only Saturday night socials, but also in Sunday after service coffee hours, and in maintaining adequate supplies to have refreshments available on an honor system seven days a week. Any income over and above our total monthly expenses is transferred to the church general fund. Even some of these funds are used for hidden expenses- electricity, water, etc., used when we prepare and serve a dinner. So when you give that \$4.00 to \$5.00 donation for dinner, you are making a donation to the church general fund.

If this does not answer your questions, or if it raises new questions, please come and talk to an officer of the social committee or any member of the board. We want you to be informed and aware of the entire operation of your church.

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With this coupon and \$18.00 you can help sponsor a child through the Christian Childrens Fund for one year.

Please complete and send in this coupon to:

Church of the Holy Spirit
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 Attn: Christian Children's Fund

OR: See Ginnie Ferguson or Kerry Dunlavey at church.

THANKS!!



for the

Sunburst

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SAT.
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PAYMENT POLICY: Half the tuition is due with the registration form, the other half the first day of class. (With this form 10% goes to MCC.)

DATES AND LOCATION: Classes will meet for 1 hour 15 minutes on Saturdays starting September 10 at a central location in Fort Lauderdale. If necessary, evening classes can be arranged. As enrollment warrants, we will offer classes in Miami.

YOUNGBLOOD AND ASSOCIATES, 2302 S.W. 31st Court, Hallandale 33009, 961-5714

REGISTRATION FORM

Name		Date
Address	City, Zip	Phone
Course	Amount Paid	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
† September † 1983				7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Social Committee Meeting	OPEN EVENING	OPEN EVENING
11 AM Worship Rev. Gill 8PM Worship Rev. Gill	LABOR DAY 2PM Covered Dish Dinner & Picnic 	7:30 PM Upper Room Prayer Time	7:30 PM Worship-Kerry Dunlavey 8:15 PM Christian Education	7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	OPEN EVENING	10:00 AM Work Party OPEN EVENING
11AM Worship Rev. Gill 1:30 A.C.T.S. class 8PM Worship Rev. White	OPEN EVENING	6PM Pastoral Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting	7:30 PM Worship Fred Tondalo 8:15 Christian Education	7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	OPEN EVENING SUNBURST DEADLINE	7:30 PM Chicken Dinner & Sock Hop-Donation \$4
11AM worship Rev. White 1:30 PM A.C.T.S. class 8PM Worship Rev. Gill	OPEN EVENING	7:30 PM Upper Room Prayer Time	7:30 PM Worship Carmine M. 8:15PM Christian Education	7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting	OPEN EVENING	7:30 PM Covered Dish Dinner & Night at the Races
11AM Worship Rev. Gill 1:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting 8PM Worship Rev. White	7:30 PM Building and Grounds Committee Meeting	OPEN EVENING SUNBURST ASSEMBLY	7:30 PM Worship 8:15 Christian Education	6:30 PM Music Committee Meeting 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	OPEN EVENING	

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DECLARATION OF FAITH

It is our belief that the Holy Spirit is active in the world today, and that He is calling men and women to Himself.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is active in the world today, and that He is calling men and women to Himself.

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Thomas Jordan, Pastor
CHURCH ST. LOUIS
ST. LOUIS

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF
GREATER ST. LOUIS

Reverend P. Thomas Jordan, Pastor

The NEW LIGHT is a publication of the Metropolitan Community Church of Greater St. Louis, a chartered Church of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We invite all persons, regardless of age, national origin, race, socio-economic status, sexual preference, or religious persuasion, to share with us in our church life and community. All are welcome.

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Publication of the name of any business, person or group in the NEW LIGHT shall not be construed as any indication of their religious or sexual orientation.

Signed articles appearing in the publication reflect the opinion of the author and are not necessarily the view of MCC, St. Louis.

All contributions to the NEW LIGHT will be greatly appreciated. Any current news items, articles, testimonies, original writing, etc. should be received by the Editor/Staff by the 10th of each month.

Send to: The NEW LIGHT
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St. Louis, MO 63108

NEW LIGHT STAFF: Editor: THE LORD
Lee O., Gloria V.,
Asst. Editor: Dee C.

DECLARATION OF FAITH

Our faith is based upon the principles outlined in the historic creeds: Apostles' and Nicene.

WE BELIEVE:

IN ONE TRIUNE GOD, omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient, of one substance and of three persons: God - our Parent-Creator; Jesus Christ - the only begotten Son of God, God in flesh, human; and the Holy Spirit - God as our Sustainer.

That THE BIBLE IS THE DIVINELY INSPIRED WORD OF GOD, showing forth God to every person through the law and the prophets, and finally, completely and ultimately on earth in the being of Jesus Christ.

That JESUS...THE CHRIST...historically recorded as living some 2,000 years before this writing, is GOD INCARNATE, of human birth, fully God and fully human, and that by being one with God, Jesus has demonstrated once and forever that all people are likewise Children of God, being spiritually made in God's image.

That THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD making known God's love and interest to all people. The Holy Spirit is God, available to and working through all who are willing to place their welfare in God's keeping.

EVERY PERSON IS JUSTIFIED BY GRACE to God through faith in Jesus Christ.

WE ARE SAVED from loneliness, despair and degradation through God's gift of Grace, as was declared by our Saviour. Such grace is not earned, but is a pure gift from a God of pure love. We further commend the community of the faithful to a life of prayer; to seek genuine forgiveness for unkind, thoughtless and unloving acts; and to a committed life of Christian service.

THE CHURCH SERVES to bring all people to God through Christ. To this end, it shall arrange for regular services of worship, prayer, interpretation of the Scriptures, and edification through the teaching and preaching of the Word.

THIS CHURCH EMBRACES TWO HOLY SACRAMENTS:

BAPTISM by water and the Spirit, as recorded in the Scriptures, shall be a sign of the dedication of each life to God and God's service. Through the words and acts of this sacrament, the recipient is identified as God's own Child.

HOLY COMMUNION is the partaking of blessed bread and fruit of the vine in accordance with the words of Jesus, our Sovereign, "This is my body...this is my blood." (Matthew 26: 26-28.)

All who believe, confess and repent and seek God's love through Christ, after examining their consciences, may freely participate in the communal meal, signifying their desire to be received into community with Jesus Christ, to be saved by Jesus Christ's sacrifice, to participate in Jesus Christ's resurrection, and to commit their lives anew to the service of Jesus Christ.

The Seventh Commandment

Thou shalt not commit adultery

—EXODUS 20:14

YOU meet quite by accident,
Two warm-hearted Christians
Who know each other pleasantly.
It happens that your marriage partners are away.
You've always liked each other,
So why not plan to meet for dinner?
A quiet restaurant, the food's not bad...

But wait.

On second thought, better not.

Why not?

Because you risk too much.

Because emotions are too...well...

Too unpredictable.

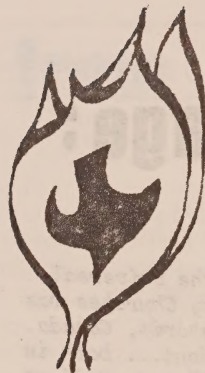
Too easily ignited.

And if a spark should blaze up,
Who gets burned?

Everyone.

O God, help me to remember
The commitment I have made
To forsake all others
As long as I shall live.

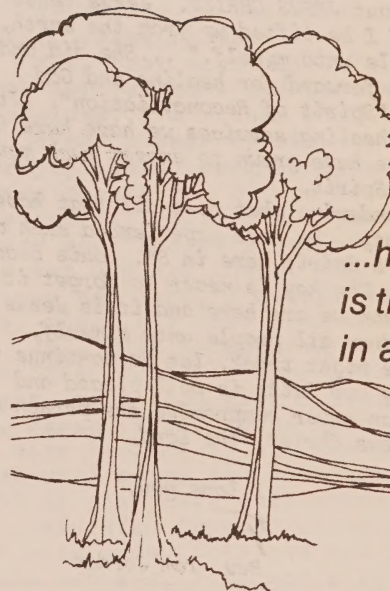
And thank You for the peace
That Your commandment brings
To all who stop and heed it.



THE NEW LIGHT

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
of Greater St. Louis

AUGUST, 1983



...how majestic
is thy name
in all the earth!

-psalm 8:1

Pastor's page:

Dear Friends,

The XV General Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches was held this past month in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Change has occurred... Growth is evident... both in individual members of the denomination as well as the Fellowship as a whole.

A real movement of the Holy Spirit occurred on Wednesday evening of the Conference as we attended a worship service where the Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey preached about JESUS CHRIST. Jesus tells us in John 12:32: "If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people unto myself." ... She did and He did. Many came forward for healing and God poured out a real "Spirit of Reconciliation". It was much like the healing services we have here in St. Louis except we have grown to expect such movements of the Holy Spirit.

You may be wondering what does all that have to do with us... Plenty. We have experienced such an outpouring of God's Spirit here in St. Louis because we lift up JESUS. The key is never to forget it is He who is the reason we are here and it is Jesus who will continue to draw all people unto Himself.

We are on the right track, let us continue in confidence knowing our Faith is well placed and further that we can never compromise the person who is our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord.

I love you,

Rev. Tom Jordan

COULD THIS HAPPEN
AT MCC ST. LOUIS

My child,

Today I watched as you stood outside the church, staring with saddened eyes. I walked with you and touched you as you peered through the windows. I listened to your heart as you asked yourself why the doors were closed. I felt the pain you felt, I cried your tears.

Now I must tell you why these things are so. Do you remember the times the tithes and offerings were collected and you passed the plate on without contributing to MY cause? I never asked for a lot. Just enough to keep God's word going. I contributed MY own son. It was up to you to carry on the work He started.

Your talents were also asked of you. Your talents in music, talking to those who haven't met Me yet, or just smiling and being yourself. That too, you refused to give.

Time was always needed -- your time. But you were too busy with your own life to be involved with your church. Time is very valuable, but it has run out. No more will the organ usher in the time of worship with glorious tones that seem to come from Heaven itself. No more will the pastor be able to feed the flock from this pulpit. No more will you be reminded how much I love you-- This church -- My church is no more!

But there is still time for you. With your help -- and many others like you -- it can be rebuilt. Give of all you have: your time, talents and your means. I will repay you again and again.

Your loving Lord.

WHAT
THE WORLD
NEEDS

More kindness
and less greed
More charity
and less need
More gladness
and less care
More faith
and more prayer
More we
and less I
More laughter
and no sigh
More sunshine
to brighten the view
And only friends
just like you.

GOLDEN GEMS

Those who attempt to
search into the majesty
of God will be over-
whelmed with its glory.
—Thomas a Kempis

A great deal of what we see
depends on
what we are looking for.

from the editor:



Dear Readers,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This past month of July was a very busy month for me and - not wanting to hurry my life along, I'm rather glad it's over.

After a year of sharing a home with two terrific women, July brought to an end our living together. It was with both much sadness and anticipated excitement that we closed the "Deacon's House" and each ventured into our own new homes. (For those of you who may not know, I always name my homes and cars, thus our past home was "Deacon House".

July also brought me into my new home, "Son-Shine House". Appropriately named because more than ever I desire the Son of God, Jesus Christ to be head of my home ... and also because of all the great windows which will allow the Sons sun to shine and light up the inner most parts of the house.

July also brought changes for me at work with promotions and new personnel...so as you can see, July was a busy month.

Editor - Con't

With all these changes, I recalled to mind the scripture from 2 Corinthians 4:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come."; and the timing of my acceptance of the Lord into my life. I can truly say because of God's grace, I am a new creation, as I know many of you are because of God's grace. It was not because I changed my living space or changed outer appearance that I became a new creation, but solely because of God's perfect love.

As you encounter changes in your life remember, 'it's not the circumstances or the appearance that creates a new creation in you, but the Lord Jesus Christ working inside you and me that has created something beautiful for His namesake.

May the peace and love of the Lord be with you today and throughout the month of August, 1983.

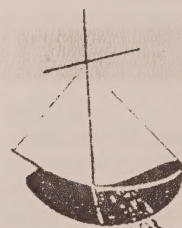
In Christ's love
and mine,

Tell

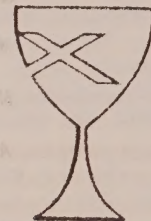
WARNING: Following are the names of seven mischievous Misses who are responsible for most of our troubles:

Miss Information	Miss Quotation
Miss Representation	Miss Interpretation
Miss Construction	Miss Conception
Miss Understanding	

BEWARE -- DON'T LISTEN TO THEM!



A VOICE IN EVANGELISM



A VOICE IN EVANGELISM

1. Practice putting God into your daily conversation.
2. Take the initiative to start conversations using the method of Question-Listen-Tell.
3. Move the conversation from chit-chat to church to faith.
4. Plan your witness - when possible - by choosing the person and preparing your thoughts.
5. Prepare yourself by Bible study, witness training, memorizing Bible verses.
6. Use whatever you find helps; tracts, conversation pin, special events, invitations to church activities, etc.
7. Pray for your witness and the person to whom you witness.

8. Why was David chosen to be king of Israel?
 - A. God felt the Israelites needed a strong earthly leader
 - B. God was unhappy with Saul
 - C. He was a man of God

9. God came to Solomon in a dream and asked Solomon what He should give him. What did Solomon choose?
 - A. Wisdom to govern his people well
 - B. Courage and might
 - C. Solomon asked God to "stayeth by me"

10. Who wrote the King James version of the Bible?
 - A. King James, himself
 - B. Scholars and translators commissioned by King James I.
 - C. Jesus Christ

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day.

—Psalm 91:5

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. A | 7. C (although different circumstances caused the rise of each judge) |
| 2. C (969 years) | 8. B |
| 3. B | 9. A |
| 4. C | 10. B |
| 5. C | |
| 6. B | |

deacon's corner

Each Sunday during Singspiration, we take up a collection which is shared between the World Church Extension and the local Deacons Fund.

World Church Extension is an outreach of the UFMCC to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

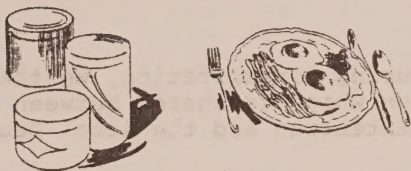
The local Deacons Fund is to help provide emergency food and funds to our local community here in St. Louis, MO.

We greatly appreciate your contributions for these needed ministries. In addition to the monetary funds which you have been so generously providing, we would like to request your help in stocking our Deacons Closet by bringing one or more of the following items to church each week:

AUGUST

- 7.....Canned Chop Suey/Chow Mein
or
.....Canned Beans/Canned Corn
14.....Canned Span or Tuna
21.....Canned Ravioli or Spaghetti
28.....Canned Potatoes or Tomatoes
- #### SEPTEMBER
- 4.....Canned Peaches, Pears
11.....Canned Milk or Canned Peas
18.....Canned Beef Stew or Dry Cereals
25.....Canned Spaghettios or soups

DIETER'S DELIGHT



GAY GRASSHOPPER

1/3 C. non-fat powdered milk
 1/2 C. cold water
 1 t. vanilla extract
 1/4 t. mint extract
 artificial sweetner to equal 2 t. sugar
 2 drops green food coloring
 6 - 8 ince cubes, crushed

Place all ingredients in blender, blend at medium speed until thick and creamy, serves one.



TURKEY TRIUMPH

6 oz. turkey, cooked 2 t. dehydrated onion
 2 chicken bouillon cubes flakes
 or instant chicken mix 2 C. boiling water
 4 oz. peas & carrots 1/4 C. cabbage, raw
 3 oz. potatoes, diced salt & pepper, to taste

Combine all ingredients in saucepan. Simmer for 20 - 30 minutes until thick and vegetables are cooked. serves one.



BIBLE QUIZ

- In how many days did God create Heaven and Earth? A. six B. thirty C. 365
- Which Biblical figure is recognized as having lived the longest?
 A. Noah B. Lamech C. Methuselah
- What does the name Abraham mean?
 A. Great debator B. Father of the Multitudes
 C. Prince of love
- How was Esau related to Jacob?
 A. Not related B. Nephew C. Twin
- To hold down the population of the Israelites, what did the Pharaoh do?
 A. Sent boys out of Egypt
 B. Sent boys to "male only" camps for life.
 C. Employed many Jewish midwives to kill Hebrew boys at birth.
- What were the conditions under which Moses received the Commandments?
 A. On the brightest of sunny days
 B. Thunder, lightning, clouds, darkness, trumpet blasts and earthquakes.
 C. In the midst of a wind storm
- What event preceded the rise of the judges?
 A. Courts of law in Israel
 B. Christian Bill of Rights
 C. Repression of Israel by the Canaanites

WELCOME

MCC ST. LOUIS welcomes the Rev. Gail Van Buren as Assistant Pastor. Rev. Van Buren joined our staff on June 20, 1983 and will be serving our congregation and community through August 31, 1983 as part of her internship from United Theological Seminary, Minneapolis Minnesota.

If you have not yet met Rev. Van Buren, please come and share in the blessings God is providing us through her ministry. You will be richly blessed.

"They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, my special possession on the day when I act, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.

—Malachi 3:17

GREAT NEWS

Rev. Thomas Jordan was ordained into the professional ministry at General Conference 1983 by the Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry and the Board of Elders.

Rev. Joseph Fischer was licensed into the professional ministry of UFMCC.

Rev. Gail Van Buren was licensed into the professional ministry of UFMCC.

Our congratulations and best wishes to each of you as you continue to fulfill God's calling for your future.

LISTEN CHRISTIAN!

I was hungry
and you formed a humanities club
and discussed my hunger.
Thank you.

I was imprisoned
and you crept off quietly
to your chapel in the cellar
and prayed for my release.

I was naked
and in your mind
you debated the morality of my appearance.

I was sick
and you knelt and thanked God for
your health.

I was homeless
and you preached to me
of the spiritual shelter of the love
of God

I was lonely
and you left me alone
to pray for me.

You seem so holy;
so close to God.
But I'm still very hungry
and lonely
and cold.

So where have your prayers gone?
What have you done?
What does it profit a man
to page through his book of prayers
when the rest of the world
is crying for help.

"El Papel" Albuquerque, N.M. 1968

BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT

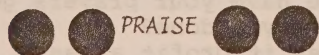
TODAY IS MINE. It is unique. Nobody in the world has one exactly like it. It holds the sum of all my past experiences and all my future potential. I can fill it with joyous memories or ruin it with fruitless worry. If painful recollections of the past come into my mind, or frightening thoughts of the future, I can put them away. They cannot spoil today for me. IT IS MINE.



WHY ARE FIRE TRUCKS RED?

Well, fire trucks have four wheels and eight men (or women as the case may be). Four plus eight equals twelve. There are twelve inches in a ruler. Queen Elizabeth is a ruler. And, the Queen Elizabeth is the largest ship in the seven seas. Seas have fish and fish have fins. Finns fought the Russians, and the Russians are 'red.' Fire trucks are always 'rushing.' Therefore, fire trucks are always red! If you think this is poor reasoning, just listen to why people don't attend church!

Newsletter - MCC, Springfield
Ma.



PRAISE

No person can be happy without a friend,
Nor be sure of their friend till they are
unhappy.

Thomas Fuller

If you have a friend worth loving,
Love them, yes, and let them know
That you love them ere life's evening
Tinge their brow with sunset glow;
Why should good words ne'er be said
Of a friend till he is dead?

Thomas Hughes



**** *

FORTUNATELY, PRAYER DOES NOT always bring us what we want' rather it helps us to become the kind of person we should be. The value of prayer is not in what it gives us, but in what it makes us. It is not primarily a method of getting but it is a splendid way of growing.

From: Lamplighter, Dec.'82
MCC. Illiamo



The more we love, the better
we are; and the greater our
friendships are, the dearer
we are to God.

Jeremy Taylor

PRAYER POSTURE

'The proper way for one to pray,' said Deacon Donna Keyes, 'The only proper attitude is down upon the knees.'

Nay, I should say the way to pray,' said Rev. Dr. Wise, 'is standing straight with outstretched arms with rapt and upturned eyes.'

'Oh, no, no,' said Elder Snow, 'such posture is too proud,; For one should pray with eyes fast-closed and head contritely bowed.'

'It seems to me the hands should be austere-ly clasped in front with both thumbs pointed to the ground,' said Rev. Dr. Blunt.

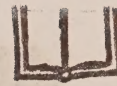
'Last year I fell in Hodgkin's head first,' said Cyril Brown, 'with both my heels a-stickin up, my head a-pointed down, and I done prayed right, right then and there, best prayer I ever said, the prayin'est prayer I every prayed, a-standing on my head.'

.....

A PRAYER FOR STRENGTH

Lord, help me live my life for thee;
To think of others instead of me,
And help me give my very best
Without regard for need of rest,
Until I've run the race you've set
And every righteous goal is met.
Then will I pause to give thee praise
For all the grace that blessed my days.
Then lovingly will I lay down
A life of work, to thee a crown,
Unworthy token though it be
To you who gave so much to me.

Glenda Fulton Davis



Dear friends,

I am one of your most "prized" possessions. I may lay on your coffee table, my cover is sometimes 'pretty', or sometimes 'plain'. My pages are cream-colored with intricate markings in them, and on some pages may be classical paintings. Sometimes, stuck in my middle section is a felt marker, marking places you have not read. My pages are full of history, a history of love, miracles, Gods strength, a tale of wonder about a courageous man named Jesus. YOUR SAVIOR. Several pages are filled with letters to Christians, letters to friends, letters to people just like you. These letters are meant just for YOU. I am your Bible, a long time friend. I should be your companion wherever you go. We need to re-aquaint ourselves, or in some cases, we need to make our acquaintance for the first time.

Do not be afraid of me. I am Holy, but I can be touched like Jesus's robe. I can fill you with fire. I can heal you and make you glad, give you faith and direction. Many people have abused me - used me as an axe to cut others down, but that is not my purpose at all. I am meant to bring joy and understanding. Do not be repelled by me and shove me into a drawer. Read me. for I AM ALIVE.

From: New Hope News - Waterloo, Cedar Falls



Could you have tried a little harder, complained a little less? Smiled a bit more often, and prayed the world be blessed? Did you hear your brother calling, or your sister's heart-felt plea? Could you have tried a little harder, and maybe set the free?

1983 AUGUST

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

5108 Waterman Avenue • St. Louis, Missouri 63108

(314) 361-7284

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:00 Women's A.A. 7:30 Gay Men's Support Group 7:30-9:30 pm "Basic Christianity" and "Mature Believers" Bible Studies	3	4	5 7:30 Joyful Noise Orchestra Rehearsal	6 1:00 Prosperity Seminar 4:00 Gay A.A. 8:00 Prayer Meeting
7 10:00 Choir Rehearsal 11:00 Morning Worship Board Meeting 6:00 Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal 6:45 Pre-Svc. Prayer 7:00 Charismatic Svc.	8 7:30-9:30 pm "Holy Spirit & You" Study Course	9 7:00 Women's A.A. 7:30 Gay Men's Support Group 7:30-9:30 pm "Basic Christianity" and "Mature Believers" Bible Studies	10 7:30 Bible Study 8:00 Prayer & Praise	11 7:00 Growing American Youth	12 7:00 Women's Rap 7:30 Joyful Noise Orchestra Rehearsal	13 4:00 Gay A.A. 8:00 Prayer Meeting
14 10:00 Choir Rehearsal 11:00 Morning Worship 6:00 Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal 6:45 Pre-Svc. Prayer 7:00 Charismatic Svc.	15 7:30-9:30 pm "Holy Spirit & You" Study Course	16 7:00 Women's A.A. 7:30 Gay Men's Support Group 7:30-9:30 pm "Basic Christianity" and "Mature Believers" Bible Studies	17 7:30 Bible Study 8:00 Prayer & Praise	18 7:00 Growing American Youth	19 7:30 Joyful Noise Orchestra Rehearsal	20 1:00 Prosperity Seminar 4:00 Gay A.A. 8:00 Prayer Meeting
21 10:00 Choir Rehearsal 11:00 Morning Worship 6:00 Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal 6:45 Pre-Svc. Prayer 7:00 Charismatic Svc.	22 7:30-9:30 pm "Holy Spirit & You" Study Course	23 7:00 Women's A.A. 7:30 Gay Men's Support Group 7:30-9:30 pm "Basic Christianity" and "Mature Believers" Bible Studies	24 7:30 Bible Study 8:00 Prayer & Praise	25 7:00 Growing American Youth	26 7:00 Women's Rap 7:30 Joyful Noise Orchestra Rehearsal	27 4:00 Gay A.A. 8:00 Prayer Meeting
28 10:00 Choir Rehearsal 11:00 Morning Worship 6:00 Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal 6:45 Pre-Svc. Prayer 7:00 Healing Service	29 7:30-9:30 pm "Holy Spirit & You" Study Course	30 7:00 Women's A.A. 7:30 Gay Men's Support Group 7:30-9:30 pm "Basic Christianity" and "Mature Believers" Bible Studies	<i>Nothing is worth more than this day.</i> Goethe			

DON'T MISS
THE LATE GREAT
PLANET EARTH

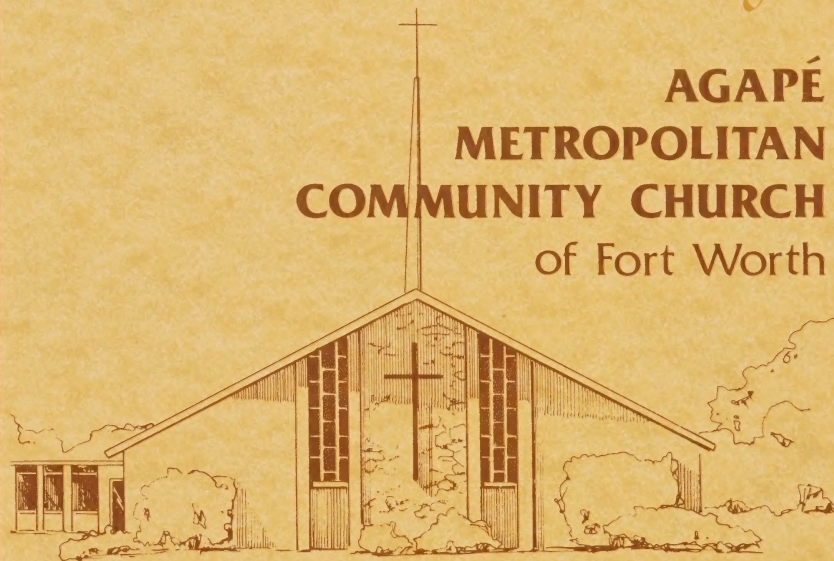
UNDER THE BIG TOP

SPECIAL MUSIC
MIDWAY OF FOOD & FUN!

FRIDAY NIGHT AT 7

The Church
LOVE
Is Building

AGAPÉ
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
of Fort Worth



Dedication Week
September 14 ~ 18, 1983

September, 1983

Dear Friends of Agape'

Greetings in the name of our LORD JESUS CHRIST.

How we have looked forward to this time of dedication of our very own facilities of Worship in Fort Worth, Texas - a church that four years ago the Elders of The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches were planning to disband because of so few members and major financial problems.

The Church now has a membership of near 225 and growing weekly because the people have a vision. (Proverb s 29:18 says: 'Where there is no vision, the people perish . . .')

Where do we go from this time in our Ministry to the Community? We feel that GOD wants to raise up a mighty spiritual army in these days, equipped with the anointing power of the HOLY SPIRIT - we desire to be a part of that great army!

We feel that in these last days, before JESUS CHRIST comes to claim HIS Church that there is going to come a unity among the BODY OF CHRIST that the world has never seen before, and the power of GOD is going to be demonstrated as never before as the HOLY SPIRIT is poured out on the family OF GOD.

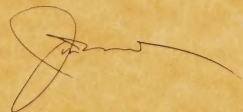
We need to forget petty idiosyncrasies and unite on the WORD OF GOD to fight the enemy (the devil) in these last-days. Where there is unity, every gift and fruit of the SPIRIT will be in operation. Then and only then can the supernatural power of GOD move among GOD'S PEOPLE. (Ephesians 4:13)

When we are working together in love and unity we will prefer one another. We will not be interested in building self, but only in building the KINGDOM OF GOD.

These are spiritual goals for the BODY OF AGAPE' METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS as we move in the mainstream of CHRISTIANITY.

In Christ Agape'

AGAPE' METROPOLITAN CHURCH



Reverend Dr. Jim Norwood, Pastor

Patron Saints

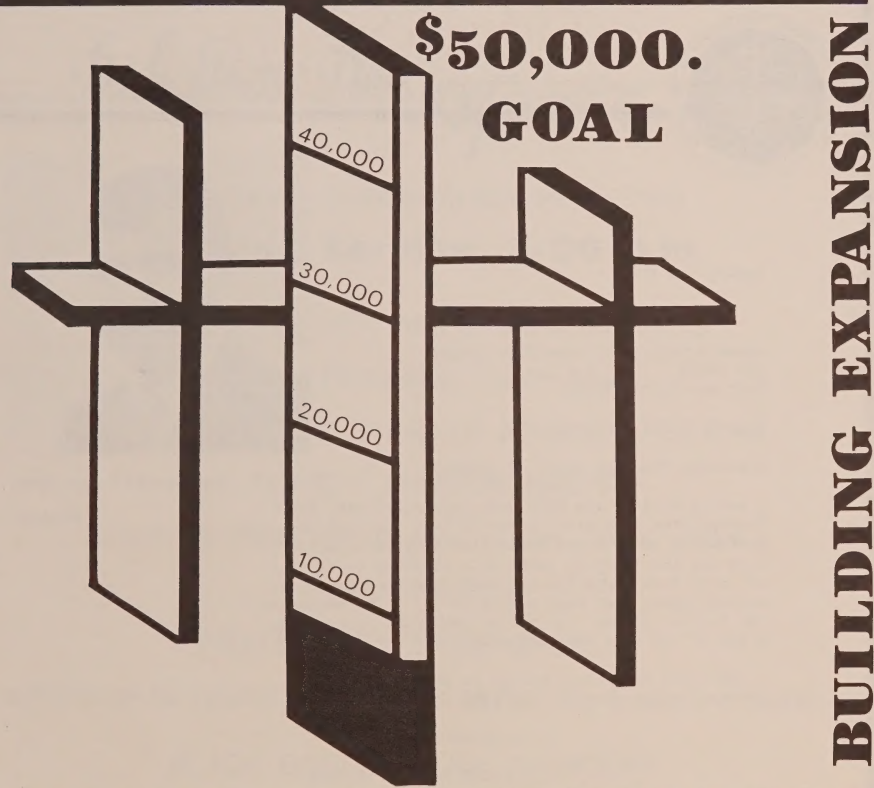
But the saints of the most high shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.

Daniel 7:18

DANNY ADLER	MAX JOHNSON	CARL THORP
GEOFFREY ALAN	J.C. KEMPER JR.	DARRELL VAIL
GRANT BARRY	DAUNE' LITTLEFIELD	KATHY WALKER
JACK BELL	SIDNEY LOUIS	CINDI WILLIAMS
RAY BUSBEE	MARK MARION	A-BRIGGS
ERNESTINE CANTU	RALPH MARTIN	AGAPÉ FORCE
KEVIN DACK	TIM MARTIN	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TERRY FAULKNER	WALT MORRIS	CORNERSTONE PROD.
JO FERRELL	REV. DR. JIM NORWOOD	GOLD RUSH POPCORN
SKIP FITCH	JANICE OLIVER	INTERCESSORY PRAYER
ROGER GANOE	JAMES POYNOR	NATIONAL LLAMBDA
SUE GIBBS	JOYCE RAINES	MASTER'S MUSIC
MARTIN GOUTCHER	BILL RAYBURN	NEIGHBORHOOD REALTORS
ROY GUERRERO	THAD ROBERTSON	OTHER PLACE
RAY HENSLEE	SAM SCHEFFLER	SOUTH JENNINGS INC.
RIC HUETT	AMADA SILVA	TARRANT COUNTY
	MIKE SWEET	GAY ALLIANCE

Special Thanks

OLIVER HEISLER - Dedication Chairperson
ED ELLIS - Sign Chairperson
ROBERT HERNANDEZ - Social Chairperson
KATI CHAPMAN - Asst. Social Chair
AGAPÉ FORCE - Pot Luck
SAM SCHEFFLER - Booklet Chairperson
STEVE HARTWIG - Asst. Booklet Chair
ROGER GANOE - Clean-Up Chairperson
The Lumber Co. & Staff, LYNN CHRISTOPHER, GINGER TAYLOR & Entire
Cast & Crew of "CHICAGO"



For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I lay a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each person be careful how he builds upon it. For no person can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 3:9-11



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We urge you to support YOUR retirement center.
For more information or an application call 478-2872.

Our Staff

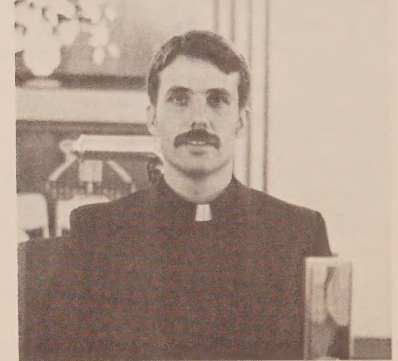


REVEREND DR. JIM NORWOOD
Pastor

We apologize if any name has been inadvertently deleted from this book.

Any changes in the Dedication Week schedule will be announced in the services.

In the event of rain or bad weather, all events planned in the tent will be moved indoors.



CHIP GRAHAM
Student Clergy



SALLY SUMRALL
Student Clergy

Friday Night Intercessory Prayer & Praise

"Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them and they shall be granted you."

Mark 12:24

"If anyone serves me, they must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if anyone serves me, the father will honor them."
John 12:26

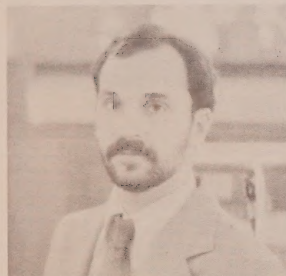


RIC HUETT
Director of Music



CARL THORP
Senior Deacon

SUE GIBBS
RAY HENSLEE
Deacons



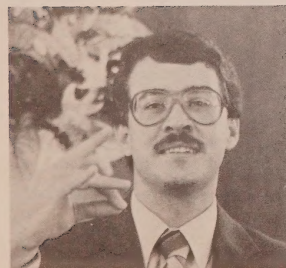
GRANT BARRY
Acolyte
(Not Pictured — Kevin Dack)



Board of Directors - left to right:

OLIVER HEISLER - Ushers & Public Relations
CAROL WEST - Clerk & Director of Counseling
JANICE OLIVER - Treasurer

ROBERT HERNANDEZ - Social Director
J.C. KEMPER JR. - Building & Grounds
DUANE LITTLEFIELD - Social Action & Counseling



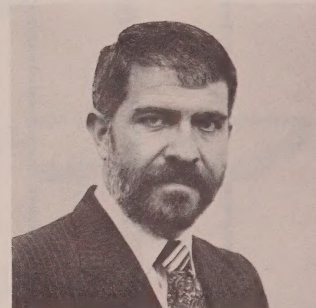
KARL LEWIS
Director of Deaf Ministries

Terry W. Gann Design Services
P.O. Box 892
Fort Worth, Texas 76101
817 731-2264

Neighborhood Realtors
CONGRATULATIONS AGAPÉ
~ Bill Cutler



5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, California 90029 (213) 464-5100



The Reverend Troy D. Perry,
Founder

August 11, 1983

Agape Metropolitan Community Church
POB 24198
Fort Worth, TX 76124

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

Greetings from the Board of Elders!

I wanted to drop you this note to congratulate Agape Metropolitan Community Church of Fort Worth on the dedication of your new facilities. You will never know how this step of faith will continue to bless not only Fort Worth but the entire metroplex area as we show again that when God calls us, if we persevere, our fondest dreams will become realities through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray that God will continue to bless you as you witness to our community in Fort Worth.

In Christ,

FOR THE BOARD OF ELDERS

Rev. Troy D. Perry
Reverend Elder Troy D. Perry

TDP/fkz

Tarrant County Gay Alliance & the
Gay Pride Week Committee conveys
its CONGRATULATIONS on your new
Church - We Support You



A-BRIGGS CO.
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5124 W. VICKERY (817) 738-2191
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76107

Dedication Day September 18, 1983

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Evening Service 7:00 p.m.

*CALL TO PRAISE : 'How Great Thou Art' -2

*PSALM READING : Psalm 113

*INVOCATION - EXCHANGE OF AGAPE' GREETING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF PRAYER : 'O How I Love Jesus' - 634

FAMILY PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE CHORUS

WORSHIP IN GIVING - SPECIAL MUSIC By Ernestine Cantu

BLACK GOSPEL MUSIC CONCERT

'Voices of Christ'

University of Texas at Arlington

CHARLENE AIRS, DIRECTOR

MESSAGE : Rev. Elder Freda Smith

*RECESSIONAL : 'The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power'

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATION STANDING PLEASE

Our Ministries

If anyone speak, let them speak as the oracles of God; if anyone minister, let them do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:11

AGAPE' FORCE . . . A Singles Ministry

The purpose of the Singles Ministry is to provide the single members of our church an alternative social outlet by providing them with the opportunity to fellowship with other believers that share similar needs and interests. It should be noted that the intent is not to create a social club, but rather to provide an organized group of events which will have a balance of scriptural studies, spiritual development and social interaction.

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

The objective of the Sanctuary Choir is to glorify God in music, to magnify the message of salvation in song, to promote congregational interest in all things musical, and to serve as a true companion to the ministry of the spoken Word.

The work of the choir represents a service of love. It is a service of dedication that must be a matter of conviction, not just convenience. Although one volunteers their time and talents to the choir, they must give their best in dependable service, knowing God blesses dependability, not ability.

MINISTERIAL STAFF

The UFMCC affirms the universal priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:5-10). Every member of the Body of Christ is called by God to the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the church and in the world.

THE MINISTRY OF THE LAITY

Every Christian is called by God and authorized by scripture to respond to the Word and serve others in the same manner as Jesus served, so that the Body of Christ would be edified and the world be transformed through the life-changing message of the Gospel.

OTHER PLACE

200 N. Vacek • Ft. Worth, Texas • (817) 335-1901

Our Ministries

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SERIES

The purpose of the Christian Education Series is to build up the Church for the promotion of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, having as a central theme "to know Him and to make Him known". There are several opportunities for study which include: Sunday School, Inquirers Class, Discipleship Training and Advanced Bible Study.

Sunday School

Childrens Education under trained supervision. The class meets at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings. A new Adult Sunday School will begin following the completion of the new Educational Building.

Inquirers Class

The Inquirers Class is designed to give an overview of Metropolitan Community Church - It's purpose, beliefs and organization. There is a total of four classes, all of which are required for membership in our local church. Topics which are covered in the Inquirers Class include:

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

The UFMCC Statement of Faith

The UFMCC By-Laws

Local Church Structure and Purpose

Homosexuality and the Bible

Also included in the four classes is an informal, one-to-one, meeting with a member of the ministerial staff.

Discipleship Training

Disciple is defined as a student of any teacher or school of religion. We are called to be disciples of Christ, therefore this class has as it's purpose to help believers understand their salvation in Christ, get into the Word, grow spiritually and make more disciples. The course is designed to give a balanced study of basic Christian doctrines while providing the student with practical, everyday applications of these doctrines.

Advanced Bible Study

In Hosea 4:6, God, speaking through the Prophet said "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge . . . ". We ask ourselves "knowledge of what?" God is speaking of the knowledge of the Word. We must have a firm foundation, built upon the Word of God in order to withstand the deceit of satan and to guard ourselves from being "tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine." In other words, if we are not standing on the truth of God, we are likely to fall for anything.

**Cornerstone
Productions**

Contemporary Christian Music

GOLD RUSH POPCORN™
THE BEST POPPIN'!!
FRESH
DELICIOUS POPCORN

Dedication Day September 18, 1983

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Dedication Service 3:30 p.m.

**Agapé Metropolitan Community Church
of Fort Worth, Texas**

**DEDICATES TO THE GLORY OF GOD
THEIR NEW WORSHIP FACILITIES**

PARTICIPATING IN THIS SPECIAL SERVICE
(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

REV. LISA BERRY

FORMER PASTOR AGAPE MCC, FORT WORTH

REV. ELDER DON EASTMAN

PASTOR MCC DALLAS

MR. RIC HUETT

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AGAPE MCC

REV. ALICE JONES

PASTOR MCC OF GREATER TULSA

REV. DR. JIM NORWOOD

PASTOR AGAPE MCC

REV. DANNY RAY

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MCC DALLAS

REV. ELDER FRED A SMITH

VICE MODERATOR UFMCC BOARD OF ELDERS
PASTOR MCC SACRAMENTO

MR. JIMMY ODOM

GUEST SOLOIST

Dedication Day September 18, 1983

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Morning Service 11:00 a.m.

* CALL TO PRAISE : 'Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation' - 557

* INVOCATION - EXCHANGE OF AGAPE' GREETING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL READING : 'Prayer for Unity' - 549

HYMN : 'The Church's One Foundation' - 547

SCRIPTURE READINGS & RESPONSES

Old Testament : Psalm 150

Gospel : Matthew 16 : 15 - 19

GLORIA PATRI

CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONAL : Dismissed to Sunday School

HYMN OF PRAYER : 'Built On The Rock' - 555

* PRAYER/HYMN OF RESPONSE

MINISTRY IN MUSIC : Cornerstone

MESSAGE : Rev. Elder Freda Smith

WORSHIP IN GIVING

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

ABSOLUTION - HYMN OF COMMUNION - PRAYER

* RECESSIONAL : 'Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken' - 376

* BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATION STANDING PLEASE

Our Guests

REV. SAM EDELMAN

Rev. Sam Edelman will start our week of dedication off on Wednesday night. Rev. Edelman first joined MCC in Tulsa, Oklahoma and subsequently founded MCC of the Ozarks, in Fayetteville, Arkansas in late 1979. She served there as Pastor, leading that group to chartered church status in 1982. A wide range of writing projects have produced the sermon "Can God Cure the Heterosexual?" as well as the Student Clergy Training Program published in the South-Central District of UFMCC. Playing "revival-style, gospel-boogie" piano, Rev. Edelman is also the composer of numerous songs. Noted for her wit and humor, Rev. Edelman has become a popular speaker, teacher and preacher in UFMCC.

REV. ELDER JERI ANN HARVEY

Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey joins us on Thursday evening for an old-fashion tent revival beginning at 7:30 p.m. She has been a member of UFMCC since 1972 and was licensed as a minister in Dallas, Texas in 1975, Ordained in Denver, Colorado in 1977, and elected to the Board of Elders in Los Angeles in 1979. She has pastored Christ The King MCC in Oklahoma City and is Pastor Emeritus, MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, Texas and April of 1978 was the first woman elected to pastor the founding church in Los Angeles which she still pastors. She is a popular preacher and lecturer.

REV. ELDER FREDA SMITH

Rev. Elder Freda Smith will be our very special Dedication Week guest. We will be honored to hear from Rev. Elder Smith several times during the week. From the moment she first heard of the UFMCC, her loyalty and talent has been focused on the UFMCC vision of liberating the world through Jesus Christ. She has been a member, a Delegate to the 1971 General Conference, appointed to the World Evangelism Board in 1972. Ordained as Fellowship's first woman minister, she spearheaded the effort to change the by-laws to include women in all categories, and subsequently was elected as the Fellowships first woman Elder. She has been pastor of Sacramento MCC continuously since 1973.

REV. ALICE JONES

Rev. Alice Jones is joining us as our special dedication speaker. She is truly one of Agape's most beloved friends. It is always a blessing when she comes to minister to the Fort Worth Church.

Rev. Jones is a native of Oklahoma. She was first affiliated with UFMCC at MCC-North Hollywood. She began her studies in this fellowship under Rev. Elder Freda Smith, and was first licensed as an exhorter, and later as a minister through MCC of Sacramento, California. Since licensed in 1975, Rev. Jones has pastored in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Des Moines, Iowa. For the past five years, she has pastored MCC of Greater Tulsa.

SOUTH
JENNINGS
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LUMBER COMPANY
COME ALONG INN

Wednesday, September 14, 1983

POT LUCK SUPPER IN THE BIG TOP 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by AGAPÉ FORCE...A Singles Ministry

FOLLOWED BY

Rev. Sam Edelman

"Can GOD Cure The Heterosexual?"

In the Sanctuary

Thursday, September 15, 1983

OLD-FASHIONED CAMP MEETING

IN THE BIG TOP 7:30 p.m.

Singspiration

Call to Praise: 'The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power'

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 53:3-5

Welcome - Announcements - Exchange of Love

Special Music: Sam Scheffler

Prayer

Worship in Giving

Special Music: Cornerstone

Message: Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey

Recessional: 'Victory In Jesus'

AGAPÉ FORCE...A Singles Ministry

Friday, September 16, 1983

AN EVENING UNDER THE BIG TOP 7:00 p.m.

Midway of Fun & Food

Pre-Movie Concert by
Cornerstone & Ernestine Cantu

*HAL LINDSEY'S PENETRATING EXAMINATION OF THE
INCREDIBLE PROPHECIES INVOLVING THIS GENERATION!*

THE LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH

This movie is a MUST for ALL AGES!

Saturday, September 17, 1983

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL 7:30 p.m.

Singspiration: 87/639/69

Call to Praise: 'I Will Exalt Thee'

Psalm Reading: Psalm 138

Welcome - Announcements - Exchange of Love

Special Music: Marge Perry

Asst. Minister, Dallas MCC

Prayer

Worship in Giving

Special Music: Ric & Terry

Message: Rev. Elder Freda Smith

Recessional: 'He Keeps Me Singing'-587

AGAPÉ MCC Board of Directors



The Metropolitan Community Church of Huntsville

cordially invites you to join us

for a weekend of celebration and rededication

On the occasion of our First Anniversary

and

the installation of

Rev. Janet Pierce as Pastor

and

Lee Hicklen as Deacon

We invite you to join us for the following events



Celebration 1987

Saturday, October 3, 1987

An evening of Comedy, Song, Dance and Drama

7:30 p.m.

Von Braun Civic Center Playhouse
corner of Clinton and Monroe Streets
Free to the community, limited seating

Suggested donation: \$5.00

(more if you can, less if you can't)

Sunday, October 4, 1987

Anniversary Service and Installation of

Rev. Janet Pierce as Pastor

Rev. Brenda Hunt, officiating

11:00 a.m.

Burritt Museum Church
3101 Burritt Drive Southeast

Sunday, October 4, 1987

Worship service and installation of

Lee Hicklen as Deacon

7:00 p.m.

Unitarian Church
2222 Governors Drive
Huntsville, Alabama